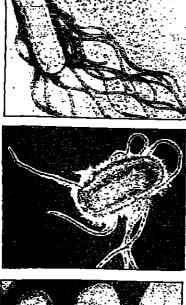
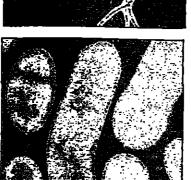
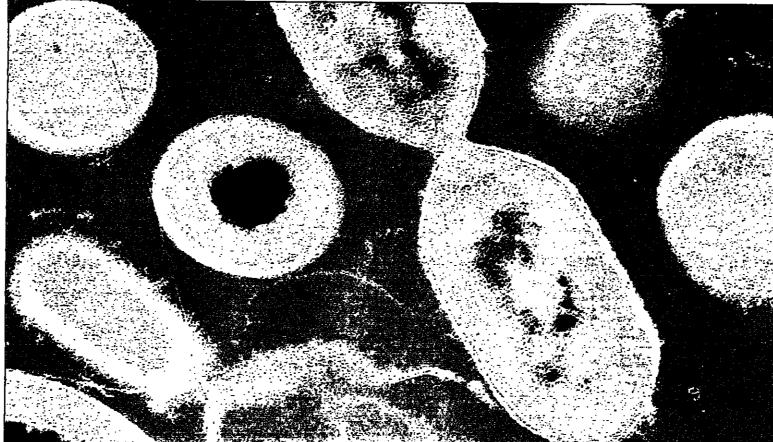
# THE INDEPENDENT

## Foul food: can the Government protect us from killer bugs?







Germ warfare: The listeria bug (main picture) and (from top) salmonella, E. coli and botul

Photographs: Science Photo Library

Sir David Naish, president of

the National Farmers Union.

said. "Its remit includes food

safety which is clearly a public

health matter which should be

Doctors, consumer associa-

The agency, which will re-

port to the Department of

Health, not MAFF, will be

made up of a commission of

twelve independent people

hacked up by advisory com-

mittees and "several hundred"

ported that a record number of

people suffered from food poi-

soning last year - 100,000 cas-

es. But scientists estimate the

real number could be 10 times

Iraq in furious mood over

Earlier this week it was re-

civil servants.

that figure.

funded by the public purse."

tions and public health experts

welcomed the White Paper.

There have been nearly 200 cases of serious food poisoning per day over the past decade. In the wake of BSE, E.Coli and salmonella, the Government yesterday

hid out its plans for a food-safety agency. Genda Cooper, Consumer Affairs Correspondent, plan to restore consumer faith in food.

The Government wants every shop and restaurant in Britain to pay £100 a year to finance the Food Standards Agency, which it promises will protect consumer interests in every area of food safety.

But farmers and food industry lobbyists warned that forcing the industry to pay for the agency would amount to a "tax on food by the back door".

The creation of one of the most powerful food watchdogs in Europe comes after a loss of public confidence in food safety after fears over the link between "mad cow" disease and Crentzfeldt Jakob disease, the E.Coli 0157 outbreak in Scotland which killed 20 people and the scare over baby milk and "gender bender" chemicals.

The FSA will be responsible for ensuring that food is safe to eat, and for advising people on what makes a healthy diet.

The Scottish health minister, Sam Galbraith, said that one of the main catalysts for the White Paper had been the E-coli outbreak in Lanarkshire. "From the plough to the plate, the agency will put consumers

first," be said. "It will have tough powers to make sure the high standards we are aiming for are met all the way from farms to shops, from restaurants and to our kitchens." The Agency will also co-

ordinate food law enforcement and commission research, taking over many of MAFF's roles. It will also have a key role in nutrition, identifying and recommending balanced and nutritious diets for the public, although Jack Cunningham. the agriculture minister, said that it would not mean the agency would be telling people what they should eat. The

agency would, however, be "radical" and bring about "fundamental changes", he added.

Part of it will be paid for by the food industry itself which the White Paper says "should bear the bulk of the costs of improving food safety and standards" as the industry "will benefit from the improved public confidence in safety".

The suggestion is that the 600,000 shops, restaurants and manufacturing plants which are already registered with local authorities would have to pay a licensing fee. The suggested flat rate of £100 per premises per annum would raise about £60m. "a substantial amount". It is expected that the agency's total annual expenditure will be

more than £100m. Frank Dobson, the Secretary

of State for Health, stressed yesterday that that would not give the food industry power over the agency. "Industry will not be laying down conditions,"

Geoff Rooker, food safety minister, added: "There will be no 'no go areas' as far as we are concerned. It will be an independent agency."

But the proposals in the White Paper were met with dismay by the food industry lobbyists who had argued against the inclusion of nutritional advice and have expressed opposition to any suggestion that businesses should pay for the agency's work.

"The Food Standards Agency should not jeopardise its independence through being funded by the food industry,"

### inc. airport taxes TOKEN 6: THE EYE, PAGE 4 INDEPENDENT AND INDEPENDENT

### TODAY'S NEWS

#### Venables banned

Terry Venables has agreed to a High Court order banning him from holding company directorships for seven years. The former England soccer chief decided to admit or not contest 19 allegations of serious misconduct. Page 5

Keep collecting! 50,000 flights to Europe from

return

### Dodging the chop

Two pigs who escaped from an abattoir were still on the run last night. The boars slipped through the hands of abbattoir workers in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, swam across the Avon and escaped through local gardens. Page 9

#### Branson denounced

Richard Branson was described variously as a liar, a crass amateur, ill-informed, ill-prepared, humiliated, deluded and cowardly. The allegations were made as Richard Ferguson QC opened his case against Branson and in defence of Guy Snowden, the head of the American firm GTech, and the man the British entrepreneur accused of trying to bribe

SLEVINION The Eye, page 12 19/0881/08/08/08 page 32, The Eye, page 9

Web address: http://www independent.co.uk



### Not Aesoppy at all – his fables were filthy

Aesop's Fables, far from being children's stories, were coarse, violent and cruel. David Lister, Arts News Editor, reports on a new book that discovers 100 missing

Insurance

fables and causes us to revise our judgement on one of history's greatest story-tellers.

We all know Aesop's Fables. The tortoise who won a race against the hare; the mouse that helped a lion by biting through the rope that entrapped it: moralistic stories about lovable animals that have sent children off to pleasant slumbers for over a century, since the Victorians translated them from the ancient Greek.

beaver who bit off his private parts? Or - to quote its exact title - The Camel Who Shar in the River? These too are Aesop's Fables. But they, along with 100 other tales, were suppressed by the Victorians.

Now the missing 100 have been translated into English for the first time. And they will, say the classical scholars who have translated them, completely alter our view of history's most famous fable-maker. Robert and Olivia Temple's

translation of Aesop: The Complete Fables will be published by Penguin Classics later this month. According to Robert Temple: "The fables are not the pretty purveyors of Victorian morals that we have been led to believe. They are instead savage, coarse, brutal, lacking in all mercy or compassion.

"Some of them were prob-But what of the tale of ably suppressed because they



were very violent and didn't suit the purposes of the Victorians. They were brutal or they were non-Christian. They were about alien gods; they contained coarse, peasant humour and were very rude."

Aesop, a caustic social and political satirist rather than the comforting moralist he has been portrayed, lived in Greece in the sixth century BC. Robert and Olivia Temple, both well known translators, went to the last known edition of the Greek text, published in France in

1927, and spent two years working on it.

Victorian sensibilities may have applauded the moral of the beaver story, namely that it attacked for one's money one should sacrifice it rather than lose one's life.

But they could not, it seems, stomach the actual fable which says that "when the beaver sees himself about to be caught. he will bite off his own parts. throw them, and thus save his

## human experiment claims

The crisis over Iraq flared dramatically yesterday over claims that the Saddam Hussein may have conducted biological weapons experiments on human beings. So nasty is the notion. David Usbome suggests, it could move the stand-off from diplomatic squabbling to military action.

Members of the United Nations inspection team currently in Iraq, whose activities have provoked the latest stand-off between Saddam Hussein and the United States, have been seeking evidence that Iraq may

have used prisoners as human guinea pigs in a quest to develop biological weapons.

Richard Butler, the head of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM), confirmed in New York that one of his teams entered the Abu Ghraib prison on Monday in search of documents relating to the possible tests. No such documentation was found, however.

The revelation further pumped up the stakes in the latest crisis over Iraq, triggered earlier this week when Baghdad objected to the composition of one of the UN teams headed by the former US Marine Corps officer, Scott Ritter. A third attempt to carry out inspections was blocked vesterday.

Diplomats speculated that the mere hint that Iraq may have exposed prisoners to lethal substances could also help tip the balance in Washington towards taking military action against Iraq unilaterally. So

far, no evidence of such tests

has been found, sources emphasised, and the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Tariq Aziz, yesterday denied it had taken place. Meanwhile, the UN Security Council condemned Iraq for blocking Mr Ritter and his team and reiterated its de-

mand "that Iraq co-operate fully and immediately and without conditions or restrictions with the Special Commission". despite earlier havering from Russia, and to some extent France, that had infuriated

The declaration was issued diplomats from other countries. Iraq claims the inspection teams are weighed down with members from Britain and the US.

Sir John Weston, the British Ambassador, said: "The references to the use of people for the purpose of experimentation with biological weapons are extremely disturbing. They are just one among a number of the different elements that the special commission is anxious to get to the bottom of".

UN officials think tests may have been carried out in 1994 and 1995, but have no cause to believe they are continuing. A senior western diplomat

suggested that Iraq may have deliberately resurrected arguments about the nationalities of inspectors because of the sudden interest by the teams in the biological testing issue. "This may be an attempt to throw sand in their faces just as we were getting close to something," he said.



### Now Britain gets its own monster from the deep

The big, amorphous blob which caused such a stir when it was washed up on a Tasmanian beach turned out to be whale blubber. Now a genuine, entire monster of the deep has come ashore on the Suffolk coasiline. And there is no doubting what it is - a quarter of a tonne of very recently deceased leatherback turtle, measuring more than two metres from nose to

It was found stranded in the surf on the beach at Sizewell nuclear power station by a woman walking her dog. It required a fork lift truck, borrowed from Nuclear Electric, to get the corpse out of the waves and safety ashore before the tide carried it back out to sea. Then, Froglife, the reptile and amphibian conservation organisation which supervised the recovery. had the turtle trucked down to London Zoo's Institute of Zoology for a

That was performed by the zoo's veterinary pathologist, Andrew Cunningham, and Brendan Godley of Glasgow University's Marine Turtle Research Group. They found the turtle, weighing as much as three men, to be in good condition internally and externally apart from old and infected wounds on its shoulder and left eye. These would have left it half blind and with impaired mobility and probably contributed to its death. The sci-

entists believe the shoulder wound was the result of being entangled in a fishing net or rope. Tissue samples will be analysed to find out what burden of pollutants and toxins the turtle was carrying.

Mr Godley said more than 50 leatherbacks had been washed up on the British shoreline during the 1990s, but the great majority had been on the west coast. They were almost always badly decomposed so finding a

near pristine specimen on

the North Sea coast was a great rarity.

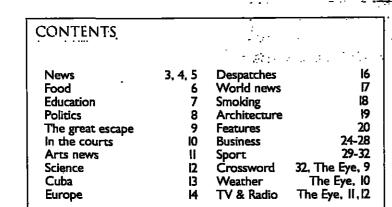
The largest of seven marine turtle species, the black, white and crimson reptiles swim thousands of miles across oceans in a year, live for decades and do not even start to breed until they are 10 years old. They bury their eggs in the sand of tropical beaches but they swim into the cold waters of high latitudes for their jellyfish prey. They have no hard external shell, relying on sheer bulk and the toughness of bone and hide to deter predators.

Photograph: John Voos

They're extremely endangered," said Mr Godley. Their fate is either to be caught accidentally in nets, then wounded or drowned, or to be killed for their meat when they come ashore to breed. Their eggs are also dug

Thousands of porpoises are also killed by fishing nets each year in the waters around Britain. Now a study is to take place into whether "pingers" - small, underwater acoustic devices - can reduce the death toll. These should deter the marine mammals, but not fish.

Irish and Cornish fishermen are taking part in a year-long evaluation of electronic pingers in the Western Approaches. They will be attached to gill nets, set in a long line on the sea bed and left for a day or two to – Nicholas Schoon trap fish swimming through.



### **PEOPLE**



Farida Khanum: Company flouted its own procedures in dealing with her case Photograph: Adam Shimali

### Muslim was unfairly treated over headscarf

A Muslim woman who returned to her job wearing a headscarf after a pilgrimage to Mecca was sacked after her foreman claimed it was a safety hazard.

Robotics technician Farida Khanum, 21, was bullied by other workers at a Luton car plant, one of whom mockingly put a cloth over his head and referred to her as "Yasser Arafat".

A manager at IBC Vehicles, a subsidiary of General Motors, told her: "I can't have you walking around like that on my shop floor." Another worker asked: "Is that a new bard hat you're wearing then?"

Yesterday, an industrial tribunal in Bedford ruled that Ms Khanum had been unfairly dismissed and said there had been "a culture of discrimination" at IBC. The tribunal rejected IBC's claim that Miss Khanum had defrauded the company by taking un-University of Hertfordshire.

It accepted her assertion that her dismissal stemmed from her decision to wear the hijah, a headcovering, in line with Islamic modesty requirements. Ms Khanum, whose parents are Bangladeshi, decided to wear the hijab after arriving home from the umra. or lesser pilgrimage, in September 1996. She was sacked three months later.

She was never given the option of a possible compromise, such as wearing some form of hairnet. Ms Khanum had begun working for IBC, which makes parts for the Vauxhall Frontera, on leaving

school in 1993. She achieved the highest exam grades among the IBC apprentices in 1995. The tribunal found that IBC mishandled the dis-

ciplinary process and Ms Khanum's appeals against her sacking. IBC's actions "flew in the face" of its own certified time off to attend an open morning at the rules and represented a "dereliction of fair procedure". – Ian Burrell and Faisal Bodi

## stay away

Gerry Robinson, the Labour supporting chairman of Granada, has been appointed new Arts Council chairman, succeeding former Tory minister Lord Gowrie, the Secretary of State for Culture, Chris Smith, announced yesterday,. Mr Robinson, 49, who was

Robinson heads

Arts Council

tipped for the post, will join the Arts Council of England immediately and take over from Lord Gowrie when he leaves at the end of April. He will serve for three

Mr Smith said: "I am delighted that Gerry has agreed to lead



Robinson: Labour supporter

for all he has done during that

the Arts Council, I look forward man of BSkyB, campaigned for arts in this country. He will take performing arts and is a council years and I should like to thank him opment of the Royal Court theatre.

## Casey told to

The disgraced Roman Catholic bishop. Eammon Casey, who fled to South America following revelations that he had a teenage son. may not be allowed to return to his native Ireland to work after all. At the end of last year, things

were looking hopeful. Ireland's Catholic leadership had signalled it would not object to his return, and the move was backed in a series of opinion polls. However, Vatican authorities are now understood to be blocking his return for fear of the amount of public-Mr Robinson, who is also chair— ity the move might generate.

Dr Casey quit his Galway dioto working with him to ensure the Labour during the last general elec- cese after confirmation of an affair long-term health and stability of the tion. He has an active interest in the with Annie Murphy, an American divorcee, in the 1970s. For the past over a council which Grey Gowrie member of the English Stage Com- five years he has since been inhas led with distinction for some pany as well as chairing the devel-volved in a mission in Ecuador. — Clare Gamer

### UPDATE

### Benefit fraud swallows £2.8bn

The Government lost £2.8bn through benefit fraud and errors - one twelfth of the total bill - according to a report published today.

As a result Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, has refused to give a clean bill of health to the finances of the Department of Social Security. He estimates that Income Support fraud has gone up by 25 per cent in two years, to £1.77bn.

Although there were no directly comparable figures for previous years, initiatives to cut out errors seemed to be having little effect. One in five benefit assessments were found to be wrong in 1996-97 - the same figure as in 1995-96. However, the Government saved £691m on the Jobseekers Allowance, partly because the new benefit deterred claimants.

ankro

-1251 47-9

### Diana song No 1 for funerals

It was inevitable - just as Diana's name rose in popularity after her death so the song 'Candle in the Wind" sung by Elton John at her funeral has become the number one tune at funerals.

A survey by Co-operative (CRS) Funeral Service has revealed that while traditional hymns such as "Abide with Me" are still popular, modern tunes are often the preferred choice for mourners.

— Kate Watson-Smyth

"Knocking on Heaven's Door - Bob Dylan "Every Breath You Take"

FUNERAL TOP TEN

3. "My Way" - Frank Sinarra

I. "Candle in the Wind" - Elton John

"Simply the Best" - Tina Turner

. "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life"

"Stairway to Heaven" - Led Zeppelin 8. "Always On My Mind"

- Elvis Presley

9. "Tears in Heaven" - Eric Clapton 10, "Seasons in the Sun" - Terry jacks

MEDICINE

### **Drug blow for MS sufferers**

Claims made by the manufacturers of a new drug for multiple sclerosis, are "not convincing" according to the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin.

The Bulletin, a Which?-style guide published by the Consumers' Association, says trial evidence for inter-feron-beta la does not support the claim made by Biogen, the firm that markets the drug as Avonex, that it slows the progression of disability over two years.

The news is a blow to the UK's 80,000 MS sufferers although the drug is only suitable for those with the relapsing-remitting form of the disease. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

#### EMPLOYMENT

### Staff crisis in health service

Health service workers are leaving and not being replaced, leading to unpaid overtime, staff shortages and high stress levels, according to a poll of 3,300 NHS employees by the public service union. Unison. Almost half of NHS managers questioned said they worked more than four hours unpaid overtime every week, and three out of five workers said they had considered resigning in the past year because of low pay or feeling undervalued.

#### **TOURIST RATES**

Australia (dollars) Italy (lira) 20.30 Austria (schillings) Belgium (francs) Malta (lira) Canada (\$) Netherlands (guilders) 12.02 0.84 Cyprus (pounds) Norway (kroner) rortugai (escuco Spain (pesetas) 243*.*57 France (francs) 12.81 Germany (marks) 2.89 Sweden (kroner) 459.78 2.35 Greece (drachmei) Switzerland (francs) 12.22 Turkey (lira) 336,046 Hong Kong (\$) ireland (punts) 1.14 USA (\$) 1.59 Source: Thomas Coal

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by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman 7.30 FOR 8

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IN FRIDAY'S INDEPENDENT: 28 PAGES OF FILM, ROCK, TV AND CLASSICAL MUSIC

**Burt Reynolds:** Dark side of the troubled actor



**Kevin Costner:** Will he ever be a star again?



The Verve: Are they really the best?

Not in front of the grown-ups: You, your parents and sex on the screen

### Millionaire bankrolls the quest for eternal life

The search for eternal youth goes on - and some American scientists think they've found it, at least for body cells. The fact that they're wrong hasn't stopped shares leaping and wild claims being made. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains.

Miller Quarles, an 83-year-Texan millionaire has one obsession: to live forever. Not as a clone, not through his children; as himself. "Tve got the



Miller Quarles: Time is running out

cells left to put me back to where I was at 45, if only they can be made to divide in time." he said in a recent interview. "I have to stay alive and keep healthy, because statistically, time is running out."

Cell division is where some scientists think the fountain of youth, the Holy Grail of ageing, resides. Every human cell has a fuse" called the telomere on its DNA: each time the cell divides. the telomere shortens. When it reaches a set length, its cell simply dies. (In sperm and egg cells, the fuse is simply reset.)

Logic would suggest that preventing the telomere from shortening would give you eternal life. When this idea was presented to Mr Quarles in 1991, he leapt at

the chance of funding a private company to take it further. In 1992, the Geron Corporation was set up in California.

Hence you can imagine his pleasure when this week, a team at Geron Corporation, working with Woodring Wright at the University of Texas, announced that it had managed to make human cells live significantly longer in a laboratory dish than they normally would.

The key to this was producing an enzyme that the body does produce naturally, called telomerase, which prevents the telomere from shortening

"This offers direct evidence that telomere shortening causes cellular senescence," said the team in Science, adding that the long-term implications are "staggering" and that "by all accounts these cells had found their fountain of youth."

Dr Wright added, "This research raises the possibility that we could take a patient's own cells, rejuvenate them. then modify the cells as needed and give them back to the patient to treat a variety of genetic and other diseases.'

So can Mr Quarles pop the champagne? Is he going to have his wish of living forever? Sadly, no. Other experts in

aging point out that telomerase is not the whole story at all. Professor Robert Newbold, at Brunel University, said: "Aging isn't solely about loss of reproductive capacity. Cells which don't divide, such as muscle and nerves, also die off in time. And rodents' cells are always producing telomerase - their telomeres don't shorten. But they die after a couple of years." Instead, other scientists reckon that aging is a cumulative process, in which damage to the powerhouses of the cell - the mitochondria - by "free radical" chemicals builds up over time. Genetic damage may also cause cells to self-destruct. "We can safely say that telomerase is not the secret of eternal life," said Professor Newbold.

Still, news of the research sent shares in Geron Corporation up four points on the Tony Blair's trip to Japan was NASDAQ stock exchange. Mr Quarles may not live forever; but he will die a richer man.

port the Millennium Dome project were denied by some of

the country's biggest companies. Newspaper articles suggested yesterday that Toyota, among other Japanese firms. was considering contributing £12m towards the building of the Dome in Greenwich, southeast London. The reports, based on briefings given by prime ministerial aides, said that Mr Blair raised the matter personally with the Toyota president last week, and that the company would be sending a representative to London to discuss the idea, having expressed "a strong desire" to participate. Hiroshi Okuda, Toyota's president, last week confirmed that it would spend £150m on expanding its manufacturing investment in Deeside. But the idea that they might also rescue the Dome, which is well short of its target of £150m in privatesector investment, appeared to be a case of wishful thinking,

Yesterday, a Toyota spokesman in Tokyo called the reports "puzzling". "We've not even given an indication we'd be prepared to consider it," he said. . Mr Blair mentioned it to Mr Okuda, but we're not seriously thinking about it."

Sony, Toshiba and Nissan, who were also named as potential millennial benefactors, denied they had ever been approached regarding the project, and their spokespeople in Japan had not even heard of the Dome. Even British diplomats in Tokyo knew nothing about the proposed sponsorship.

The millennium travesty appears to be a final effort to spin positive headline out of a prime ministerial visit to Japan which was thin and uneventful at best. Mr Blair did give speeches, hold summits and open the year-long UK 98 festival. But nearly half of his four days were spent on sightseeing, shopping, and being interviewed. Even the grand Toyota announcement had been leaked several weeks before. Relations between Japan

and the UK are generally very smooth, but the one issue of contention - the demands for an apology and compensation by former British prisoners of war - also became bogged down in confusion. After a meeting with the Japanese prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, Mr Blair's official spokesman, told reporters that the Japanese had offered a

hours a Japanese official said exactly the opposite: Mr Hashimoto's words were simply a reaffirmation of an official statement made by his predecessor two years ago.

Then in, of all places, yesterday's Sun newspaper. Mr Hashimoto restated "our feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology". Yesterday threatened to turn nasty for him when the right-wing Shingo Nishimura, promised to raise the matter in the Diet. "You can't apologise for everything that happened in the past ... Hashimoto is so weak and stupid, he cares so much what people think of him." he said.



#### **Bassey wins** court battle over sacking

Singer Shirley Bassey yesterday won a court battle with her former personal assistant, Hilary Levy, who claimed that she was sacked after a drunken row. The court was told that Bassey (pictured after the hearing) had slapped and assaulted Ms Levy during a row in a hotel room.

Ms Levy, 44, who had worked for the singer over 15 years, claimed she was sacked by her after a dispute over working hours and sued claiming breach of contract. She told **Brentford County Court in west** London that Bassey hit her on the back and called her a "Jewish bitch" after consuming a "fair amount of champagne".

Summing up, Judge Marcus Edwards agreed that Bassey had not called Ms Levy a bitch and was not anti-Semitic. He also said that he thought Ms Levy had not been sacked and dismissed her claim for £7.650 loss of earnings. He said he found Ms Levy a "less persuasive witness" than Bassey. "Generally, I found her not to be as fully frank and helpful as she might be," he said.

After the judgment, which followed five years of legal wrangling. Ms Levy refused to comment to reporters.

Shirley Bassey broke down as she gave a statement, in which she said: "I have fought the case regardless of cost in order to defend my name and reputation, in order to protect my career, and as a point of principle. Today's judgment endorses and vindicates that decision and I am happy that the matter is now ended."

she threw flowers to waiting fans, who clapped and cheered. Photograph: Bruce Adams

As she stepped into her car,

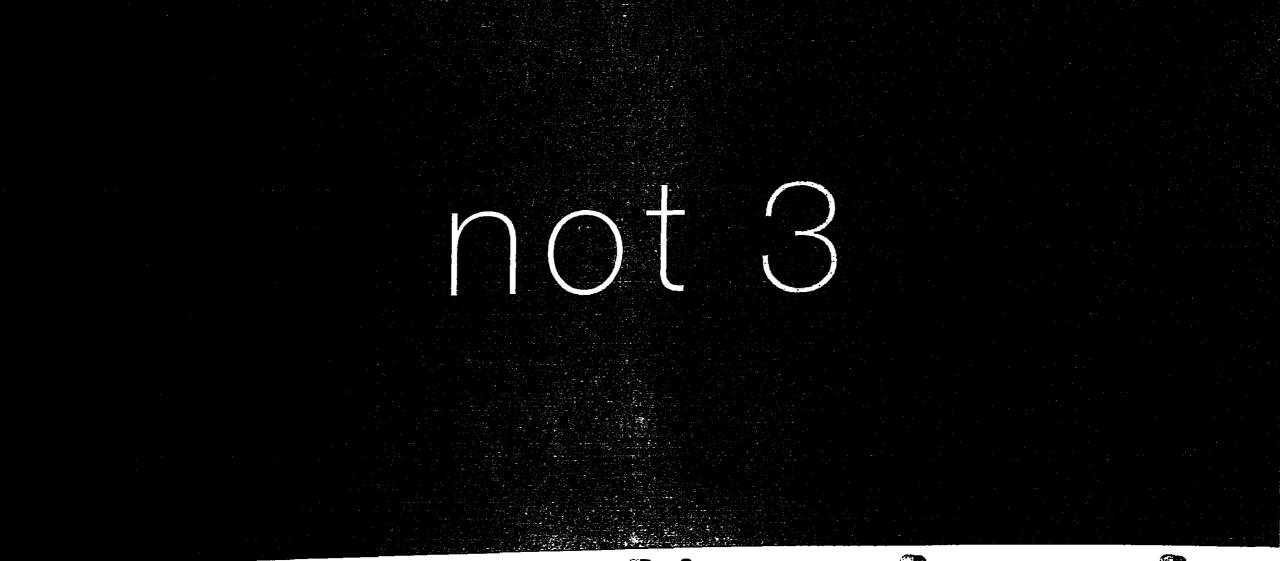
### Help out the Dome? Not us, say Japanese companies

A grand announcement that everyone had heard before. A brand new apology that turned out to be old. And now the multi-million pound investment that never was. Richard Lloyd Parry reports from Tokyo on a distinctly underwhelming prime ministerial visit.

further undermined yesterday. when reports that he had enlisted Japanese money to sup-

or wilful spin-doctoring.

new "official" apology. Within



### 'Friendly fire' is blamed for shoot-out in Belfast

An RUC officer last night remained critically ill after being shot by an woman undercover soldier following a car chase in Belfast. Dovid McKittrick, Ireland Correspondent, on an incident described as a 'friendly fire' tragedy.

The woman soldier was said to have been engaged in plainclothes surveillance work aimed in particular at spotting loyalist assassins following the recent upsurge in violence. Two Catholics have been killed in the area in recent days in retaliation for the INLA assassination of the loyalist leader Billy Wright inside the Maze prison.

She opened fire on the officer after her car crashed while being pursued on the Crumlin Road in the north of the city early yesterday, according to

The policeman had been travelling in an unmarked car but was in uniform at the time. He appears to have been on a under such difficult and trying routine RUC patrol which encountered the woman, who was

The soldier, who is said to have fired a number of shots, was interviewed by police yesterday. An RUC spokesman said that at no stage were any shots fired by the police.

Incidents of "friendly fire" fatalities have been rare during the Troubles, with around a dozen deaths. Most of these took place in the early 1970s, a community but it is fraught majority of them happening in north Belfast. The most common casualties were troops shot mistakenly by other quiry which could open ex-sol-

Coincidentally, yesterday's incident took place on the same stretch of road as a woman undercover soldier shot and killed a loyalist in 1989. On that occasion he was making his escape after shooting a Catholic man.

RUC assistant chief constable Bill Stewart said there were strict guidelines designed to prevent such incidents. He added: "We will be examining this incident and take whatever action is necessary to prevent

"Considering the circumstances ... and the risks involved in protecting the public from terrorism, incidents of this kind have thankfully been few and far

His sentiments were echoed by Ulster Unionist security spokesman Ken Maginnis MP, who said: "I know from experience how difficult it is to operate uniformed people and undercover agents at the same time. The authorities must make sure it does not happen again. It's amazing this sort of hiccup does not happen more frequently when members of the security forces have to operate conditions."

• There were strong rumours around Westminster last night that an apology for the Bloody Sunday massacre could be made next week by Mo Mowlam to mark the 25th anniversary of the killing of 13 people by paratroopers in

The nationalist SDLP MPs are expecting a move to respond to feelings in the nationalist with risks, and the Government may not be able to meet the demands for a full public indiers to murder charges.



Gerry Adams with his niece, Deidre, at her husband's funeral yesterday Photograph: Reuters

### Adams joins **funeral** tribute

Up to 5,000 people yesterday attended the funeral in west Belfast of Terry Enright, a relative of Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, who was shot dead by loyalists at the weekend.

Since he died, a number of cross-community tributes have been paid to Mr Enright, the 28year-old who was married to Mr Adams's niece and whom was the father of two children. He was noted for his work with the young and disadvantaged.

Hundreds of children lined the route, many of them holding banners paying tribute to his

At yesterday's funeral Gerry Adams carried the coffin for a time as Mr Enright's widow walked behind carrying a single red rose.

He was shot dead last Saturday as he worked as a doorman at a city centre club which was owned by a relative of the loyalist politician, David Ervine.

Mr Ervine has said that the group which claimed responsibility for the attack, the Loyalist Volunteer Force, had wished to strike at him and his family. The LVF, which was founded by the loyalist Billy Wright, opposes the peace process

The Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, Dr Patrick Walsh, told mourners: "Terry was born in 1969, a fateful year. 1969-1998 was year after year of agony piled on agony. Will 1998 be a fateful year in a different sense, a year that will see the agony over, and the darkness of bitterness, suspicion, hatred and terror scattered in the warm light of tolerance, respect, love and peace?"

Dr Walsh said Mr Enright had been murdered simply because he was a Catholic, adding: "Not only those who pulled the trigger were guilty but also those who had fomented bitterness and hatred with inflammatory words."

- David McKittrick

### Women recalled for breast checks in Humberside

Health officials in Humberside yesterday recalled 1,000 women for repeat breast screening after checks showed their mammograms were not sufficiently clear. A routine inspection of 16,000 mammograms made by the Humberside Breast Screening Service between April 1995 and March 1996 showed some did not meet quality standards.

The problem was discovered after doctors observed that the cancer detection rate in the area was below the national average. Ian Galloway, medical director of Royal Hull Hospitals NHS Trust, which manages the service, stressed the recall was only precautionary and did not mean cancers had been missed. He said: "We are re-screening these women to ensure we have the best quality X-rays. We apologise for the disruption and distress that this will cause. — Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

#### Blaze kills two children

Two young children died trying to hide in a wardrobe as fire swept through their bedroom yesterday.

Christopher Webb, aged four and his sister Patricia, three, were killed when the blaze broke out in the upstairs bedroom of their two-storey flat in Eltham, south London.

Their mother, Julie, 25, and two unnamed men were taken to St Mary's hospital, Sidcup, suffering from shock. One of the men had attempted to reach the children but was beaten back by fierce flames, Fire Brigade officials said. Their bodies were discovered after firefighters fought their

way into the bedroom using a hose reel, assistant divisional officer Dave Smith said.

He said there was no indication of what had started the

### Hunt dogs tore cat to bits

A hunt might be prosecuted by the RSPCA after some of its hounds killed a cat while the animal's owner watched. RSPCA officials said they had launched an investigation into the incident at Old, Northamptonshire after hounds from the Pytchley hunt ran loose onto a residential area and torn the five-year-old cat called Missy to pieces.

The cat's owner, Elizabeth Moss, who is heavily pregnant, had watched the attack but had not realised the victim was her cat. She had questioned the huntsmen about the attack and had been told that the dogs were killing a fox. She only learnt the truth some hours later. Hunt officials have offered to give her a kitten.

#### Police officer arrested

Ten people were arrested yesterday, including a British police officer, after the seizure of £1m of cannabis resin on a yacht in the French port of Calais, Customs & Excise said.

A spokesman said eight arrests were made in Birmingham after a joint operation with French police. He added that two other men, including John McAnenny, 47, a West Midlands police officer, were helping French police with inquiries into the discovery of 200kg of cannabis at the port-The spokesman said that a yacht carrying the drugs was forced to return to Calais due to bad weather after setting sail for England. Eight people were in custody at Solihull North police station and extradition proceedings are being considered in relation to the two men arrested in France.

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# Venables banned as company director for seven years

Terry Venables, the former England football coach, was yesterday banned from being a company director for seven years. Ian Burrell charts the spectacular fall from grace of the man who enjoyed hero status after the Euro 96 championships.

Whether as a football chairman, detective stories for television. Venables has always had an eye for money-making opportunities.

But after nearly four years of strenuously denying allegations of improper business conduct, he caved in yesterday and chose not to challenge a mountain of evidence compiled against him by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Usually always ready for the cameras with a cheeky grin, Venables did not appear at court. He had reached a settlement with DTI lawyers and agreed to be disqualified from directorship and from being concerned in forming, managing or promoting companies for seven years.

Although the evidence was not read out in court. The Independent has obtained a copy of the crucial guarantee agreement which Venables made to obtain a £1m loan to buy shares in Spurs.

Venables had denied the existence of the guarantee, but the DTI was able to obtain a copy of the document, signed in August 1991, and a statement from Charles Dyer, a director

Leasing, who witnessed the signing.

The circumstances under which the loan was raised were central to the DTI's case which related to Venables' alleged mismanagement of four companies - London drinking club Scribes West, Edennote, Tottenham Hotspur and Tottenham Hotspur Football and Athletic Company.

Elizabeth Gloster QC, for the DTI, told Mr Justice Evans-Lombe that Venables' conduct in relation to the four compaa karaoke bar owner or writing nies has been such as to make him unfit to be concerned in any way with the management of a company".

> The 19 allegations set out in an agreed statement of facts amounted to serious breaches of his obligations and responsibilities as a director.

Venables, 55, did not dispute the core material facts in the statement and accepted that the conduct alleged was of "such seriousness as to render him un-

News of the disqualification prompted a statement from the competition and consumer affairs minister, Nigel Griffiths, who said: "We recognise his great achievement in football coaching, but even our national heroes cannot be allowed to fall below accepted standards of probity when they enter the business world."

Since Venables took England to the semi-finals of the Euro 96 championships he has suffered a succession of humil-

Yesterday's court hearing stems from his split with Alan Sugar, with whom he ran Tottenham for two years until of the loan firm Landhurst 1993. The pair have become bit-



ter rivals. In October 1996, Venables was ordered by a court to pulp all remaining copies of his autobiography and pay £100,001 in damages to

Sugar, the Spurs chairman, afbooks had already been sold.

denounced as a perjurer by ter a libel action. Venables tried Judge Timothy Pontius who to claim a victory as most of the accused him of "deliberately and dishonestly" misleading a Last October, Venables was jury, when giving evidence on ables became national coach of round.

behalf of his right-hand man Eddie Ashby, who was jailed for four months.

In November 1996, Ven-

Australia but his dream of taking them to the World Cup failed as they were knocked out by Iran in the final qualifying Rise and fall: Venables was pronounced unfit to be concerned in any way with the management of a company Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/EMPICS

At the same time he had taken control of First Division Portsmouth, paying just £1 for

a majority share option. By the time he left the club last week, it was in disarray, losing £150,000 a month and bottom of the league. Venables, who rarely attended matches but had taken a £300,000 "performance" bonus, claimed an extra £220,000 as a pay-off.

Earlier this week, senior FA officials met lawyers to discuss whether Venables and other senior football figures should face disciplinary proceedings following an investigation into whether unofficial "bungs" were naid as commission on transfer deals.

### **Branson accused** of being cowardly and a liar

Richard Branson took to the witness box

yesterday at a two-way libel trial centring on allegations of attempted bribery. Andrew Buncombe was in court.

Richard Branson has been called many things in his time, some complimentary and some less so. Yesterday most of the descriptions fell into the second

In the space of around 90 minutes he was described var- taken conclusion than to admit iously as a liar, a crass amateur, he had been shown up as a crass ill-informed, ill-prepared, humiliated, deluded and cowardly. The series of allegations in detail the lunch in Septemcame as Richard Ferguson QC opened his case against Mr Branson and in defence of Guy Snowden, head of US-based firm GTech, and the man the



Branson: 'No one has ever tried to bribe me before'

British entrepreneur said tried to bribe him. Mr Branson is suing Glech, Mr Snowden and its PR director after they dismissed his allegation of attempted bribery, while GTech is countersuing Mr Branson over the original allegation.

In the High Court yesterday Mr Ferguson said that any attempt to try and bribe Mr Branson would have been madness. He added: "Mr Snowden did not get to the position he now occupies by being a madman."

He said if Mr Branson genuinely believed Mr Snowden had tried to bribe him, he should have said so at the time. "He should not have waited

and then making this cowardly attempt on television, said Mr Ferguson, referring to a 1995

BBC Panorama programme in which Mr Branson made the allegation.

nised details of a note Mr Branson said he had made after the alleged bribery attempt the QC questioned whether the words what can we do for you Richard?' amounted to a bribe.

Why did Mr Branson conclude it was a bribe, he asked. "Did he delude himself into thinking he had been the subject of a bribery attempt by this odious American? Was it easier for him to live with that misamateur."

Mr Branson later described ber 1993 involving himself, his associate John Jackson, head of Sketchleys, and Mr Snowden, a director of Camelot, the company that won the lottery franchise. He said he planned to bid to run the lottery on a non-profit making basis.

Mr Snowden tried to talk him out of this and even asked him to join his own consortium. Mr Branson said: "He was sweating, mopping his brow. He shuffled towards me and then he came out with these incredible words. 'I don't know how to phrase it Richard, there is always a bottom line. I'll get to the point. In what way can we help you?'. I have never been so, what is the word ... flabbergasted. No one has ever tried to bribe me before."

Mr Branson said he asked Mr Snowden what he had meant. "His reply was, "There is always something in life everybody needs'. He replied he

had no need of anything. "John Jackson's eyebrows were hitting the ceiling," said Mr Branson. "Snowden was sweating, and mopping his forehead. There was a deathly hush. I had no wish to be in the presence of this man any longer."

Mr Branson said that he later a phone call from the publicist Sir Tim Bell on Glech's behalf saying that Mr Snowden might have said something he regretted and asked whether Mr Branson was going to the press.

Mr Branson, 47, also told the court that after Mr Snowden and his consortium were awarded the lottery contract he retwo years before going public vealed the attempted bribe to Peter Davis, director general of the lottery watchdog Oflot.

The trial continues.



### **Europe offers** export hope to Ulster beef farmers

The first UK-bred beef could be back on sale in Europe by Easter after a partial lifting yesterday of the two-year trade ban. Katherine Butler, in Strasbourg, says the **European Commission** agreed to ask member governments to allow beef exports from Northern Ireland.

The Commission's unanimous support for a scheme to admit exports from what will be known as "certified BSE-free herds" in Northern Ireland can be viewed as the first step on the way back to normal trade.

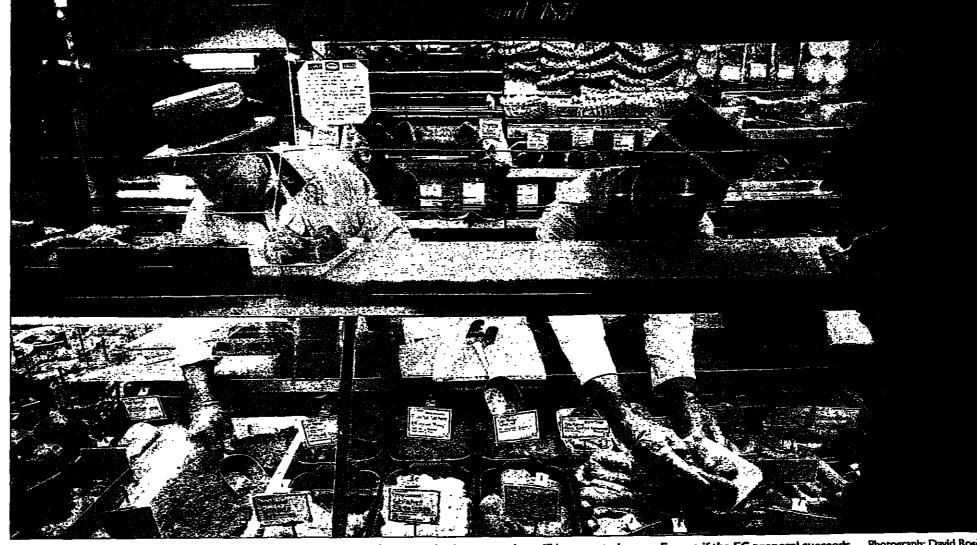
Jack Cunningham, the agriculture minister, welcomed the development but cautioned that it amounted to clearing just the first of many hurdles.

Only two governments, Ireland and Holland, already back the case for lifting the ban on Northern Irish beef, so convincing a majority to vote in favour will be a huge hurdle in the face of hardline German resistance. The next barrier will be re-

ferral on 21 January to memberstate representatives on the EU's Standing Veterinary Committee. Under the bloc's arcane voting rules this Committee could lift the ban on Northern frish exports if a qualified majority agrees. This is unlikely, however, so

the Commission expects to have to refer it to the Council of EU agriculture ministers where the German government is expected to do all it can to muster a majority against. One tactic might be to link agreement to demands that German should be declared a "BSE-free zone" but the EU agriculture commissioner, Franz Fischler, yesterday warned the Germans which should be decided on scientific grounds. "There is clear hope now. If we are successful with this first step then I am personally convinced the

next steps will follow," he said. have been lobbying for months and have been afflicted by a very low farmers there to identify beef production, an industry would be allowed only for and processed on approved British meat factories.



against politicising a matter In the pink Lidgate's, the butchers, selling UK-bred beef in west London yesterday in a scene that will be repeated across Europe if the EC proposal succeeds

from the rest of UK farmers. key factor was the existence in vesterday's decision comes as vindication of the argument that their herds are grass-fed

Ulster of a 10-year-old com-

for special treatment, set apart low incidence of BSE. But the those animals and herds which have never been afflicted by BSE. Around 85 per cent of puterised cattle-tracing system. farmers in Northern Ireland are unique in Europe. This will al- involved in cattle rearing and

which generates more than deboned meat from cattle aged 20,000 full-time jobs.

But they will have to comply with tough conditions even if the herds free of BSE for at least proposal goes through. Exports eight years and slaughtered

between 6 months and 30

tions, the EU food safety commonths which comes from missioner, Emma Bonino, ruled out any exports from Northern ireland which pass through

### Danger labels are slapped on eggs, cheese, carrots, baby milk - and meat

In the last 20 years, one food scare has followed another, with panic reaching a peak over beef. Glenda Cooper. **Consumer Affairs** Correspondent, follows the trail of poison.

"We do warn people now that sadly most of the egg production in this country is infected was started in December 1988 health minister.

It was the first of many. Ready-cooked poultry and soft cheeses were the next victims. with the listeria outbreak of a botulism scare after one contaminated batch of hazelnut yoghurt was found.

els of patulin, a toxin occurring in an outbreak of E. coli O157. Jakob disease (v-CJD) in humans. the were diagnosed between

with salmonella." Thus the first naturally in juice, were found in It began in November 1996, and big food scare of recent times apple juice. And then in May 1995 the discovery of high by Edwina Currie, then a junior organophosphate levels led to government advice to peel carrots before eating them.

Parents panicked in May 1996 when nine leading brands of baby milk were said to contain 1989. The same year there was levels of phthalates, "gender hender" chemicals. The European Commission later concluded that there was no danger In February 1993, high lev- to babies. Then 20 people died

was traced to a butcher's shop. The Government ordered an inquiry, led by Professor Hugh Pennington, which called for sweeping changes in food safety. This week, he said the Government had not acted fast enough on his recommendations.

But the mother of all the scares is beef - specifically, the link between bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in cattle and new-variant Creutzfeldt-

from the Ministry of Agriculture. Fisheries and Food (Maff) began to investigate - later named BSE - symptoms of a new disease in cattle on dairy farms. In 1988, the government set up a working party under Sir Richard Southwood to consider the significance of the BSE epidemic. Compulsory slaughter and incineration or burial of cattle showing symptoms followed. More than 170,000 cat-

It was 1985 when scientists 1987 and 1997, but estimates ficer, issued a statement to showed that up to one million with the disease but showing no symptom were used in human and animal food.

The government insisted that there was no danger to the public. Many scientists, meanwhile, quietly gave up beef.

In May 1990. John Gummer, then the minister of agriculture, infamously fed his daughter Cordelia a hamburger to prove its safety. In 1993, Kenneth Calman, then chief medical of- exposure to BSE. A Europe-

Gummer's replacement, continued to emphasise that British beef was safe to eat.

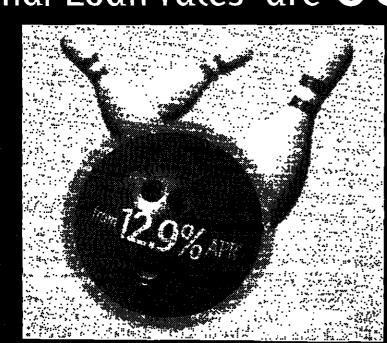
But in 1994 a handful of teenagers fell ill apparently of CJD, which usually affects only those over 60. The government denied a link to BSE.

On 20 March 1996, Stephen Dorrell, then secretary of state for health, announced that the

calm fears. Douglas Hogg, Mr lowed, killing a £500m industry almost overnight, and the government banned sales of specified material from cattle, sheep and goats. By August 1997 more than 1.7 million cattle had been slaughtered. Most recently, the Minister of Agriculture, Jack Cunningham, banned the sale of beef on the bone.

To date, 23 people have died of v-CJD, but scientists say it is most likely cause of v-CJD was too early to know whether thou-

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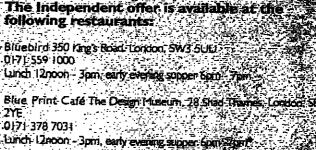
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## Headteachers shun most difficult posts

Government policies on league tables and targetsetting are causing heads to shun difficult schools, a survey has revealed. Judith Judd, Education Editor. explains why there is a crisis in headteacher recruitment.

For the first time in a decade, an annual survey of headteacher recruitment shows that some small schools are receiv-

ing not a single applicant for cation action zones, where heads vertised headship vacancies. At pendent upon market forces vertised. In outer London and headship vacancies.

Among secondary schools, many that have low league table scores are struggling to John Howson, an educational analyst, who carried out the Secondary Heads Association and the National Association of Head Teachers. Ministers, he suggests, will have to pay some heads more if they want to achieve their aim of raising

standards in poor schools. The Government's 25 edu£100,000, will cover only a tiny proportion of struggling schools,

Mr Howson says. At best, find good heads, according to around 75 of 4,500 secondary schools will be included. But, in the last three years, nearly onestudy with the support of the fifth have seen a decline in both the proportion of pupils getting five good GCSE grades and the proportion getting no GCSEs.

The survey, which measures recruitment problems by monitoring the number of readvertised posts, analysed the exam results of 40 schools that read-

may be paid as much as more than half of these the percentage of pupils with five GCSE passes at grades A-C was less than 30 per cent. At onethird, it was under 25 per cent.

Mr Howson comments: "All schools need high-quality leadership and schools with low percentages of higher GCSE scores must not lose out. In a marketbased economy, the amount a school can pay to attract a new

head may be of significance." On education actions zones he adds: "The experiment will still leave too many schools de-

and with budgets that do not allow them to offer financial incentives to new heads."

Schools that fail to attract any applicants are usually small village schools in unattractive ar-

eas where unemployment is high. Overall, the problem of recruiting a head appears to have been no worse last year than in previous years, but Mr Howson

the South-east the figure was 30 per cent and nationally it was 14 per cent for secondary and 24 per cent for primary schools.

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said that some heads did look at league tables before making applications. "The real message is one about security. It is not that people don't want suspects this is because an un- to take on challenging schools. usually high proportion of If you take on that sort of place schools now have acting heads. and you don't deliver, maybe In inner London, more than through no fault of your own. 50 per cent of posts were ad- your job is at risk."

### School reopens for five pupils

Wanted: one teachet to teach five 11- and 12-year-olds. Salary: £14.500 Jabout £5000 below the going rate]. House available in crofting township (pop. 70) with no road or mains electricity. Needs to manage 20 volunteer teachers and the parents who run the school. The job would probably try the patience of a saint but the place is beautiful and the children open and articulate.

After four years, the parent-run secondary school in Scoraig, Ross and Cromarty, is to reopen this August. The Highland Council agreed yesterday to give an annual grant so pupils from the remote Scoraig peninsula will not have to travel 30 miles, including a mile by sea, to school. Because of travelling difficulties they have to lodge away from home during the week.

The grant to the reopened school this year will be £14,500. At present, the council is paying £6,800 each for four pupils for travel and board at a school

felt their 11-year-olds were too. But some parents felt that the ondary school age also declined



Outdoor learning: Teacher Martin Jones with Scoraig's last pupil, Patrick Rushforth, in 1994. Below, Celia Ertz teaches pupils in 1967 Photograph: Peter Jolly

At first it was staffed entirely by Scoraig parents set up the volunteers, and a ruined church dren to school in Gairloch. The school 11 years ago because they was rebuilt to house the pupils. number of children of sec-

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young to stay away from home. school could not offer enough new faces and sent their chil-

and by 1994 the school was. The committee, mainly of par-

down to one pupil.

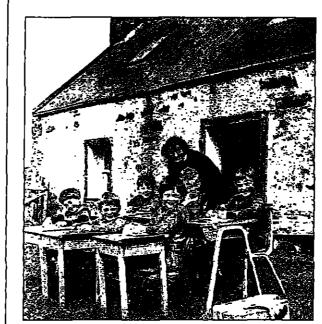
ents, which runs the school ap-Now, there are four 11-yearolds and one 12-year-old who want to attend school in Scoraig.

plied for a council grant and has offers of unpaid teaching help from 20 of Scoraig's inhabitants about half the adult population.

All that is needed is a qualified teacher, Topher Dawson, the committee's chairman, whose child will be one of the first pupils at the school said: "Even though the local secondary schools are

excellent, the parents are delighted that their children will not have to cross a mile of sea and spend all week away from home. By the year 2000 we may have 10 pupils so we are saving the council a great deal of money."

A telecottage will open shortly at the school to provide computer services for local people. —Judith Judd,



### Teachers to learn computer skills

Every teacher will receive training in information and communications technology through a £235m package announced by the Government vesterday.

Ministers believe that twothirds of the country's 450,000 teachers know less about computers than their pupils.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, gave details of the package, which is funded by the National Lottery. at the British Training and Technology Exhibition in Lon-

He also launched the first contents of the National Grid for Learning, which include a "Virtual Teachers' Centre" and a database set up by the Government's Schools Standards and Effectiveness Unit on an Inernet website.

The teachers' centre has teacher training material for all and the database aims to show teachers examples of methods

which are successful in raising standards,

Eventually, the database will contain educational computer software, developed mainly by private companies.

Last year, the Prime Minister announced a £100m fund for schools to buy computers and software to ensure that every school is connected to the Internet by the year 2002.

Several schools have been using the website in a pilot scheme run by the National Centre for Educational Technology in Coventry.

Chris Thatcher, head of Potters Green primary school, Coventry, said the website was an invaluable time saver. At present, teachers could spend hours finding material for lessons,"It could be useful if you needed to develop work on a particular part of the curriculum, cutting out the lengthy National Curriculum subjects, process of having to write work-

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### Blair tightens grip on levers of power

The Prime Minister tightened his grip on Government policy yesterday, taking charge of a public campaign for welfare reform and setting up a new ministerial control unit in No 10. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, examines moves that could squeeze the Chancellor's power base.

Tony Blair will tonight take the lead in a concerted public campaign for welfare reform, effectively grabbing control from Gordon Brown. He is searching for a more coherent and considered approach to a problem what are possibly speculative that has so far been tackled piecemeal - as with lone parents' benefit and the threat to

disability benefits. But the Prime Minister also announced last night that a tonight. Mr Blair is planning to new six-strong Strategic Communications Unit had been set option. Long-term, thought out. up at No 10 "to make sure principled reform is the way forevents are scheduled, launched and followed through to maintain impact and to convey the central story and themes of the

lation from others, one of the unit's tasks will be ensure that the Chancellor's staff are working "on message".

There was extreme annoyance inside Government this week that while the Prime Minister was asserting his authority over welfare reform, the Chancellor's aides were once more floating "premature and unhelpful" proposals for the taxation of child benefit and the abolition of child benefit for 16plus schoolchildren.

In the context of separate speculation that pensions could be curbed for the better-off, Mr Blair said during Prime Minister's Questions: "There is really no point in conducting a review and inquiry and then giving out proposals before they are properly considered. It has to be done in a proper and serious way."

in a speech to party workers in Dudley, West Midlands. say: "The status quo is not an

He will reassure those who depend on benefits - and restive Labour activists: "Those in genuine need will always get help

As the Treasury is seen as the and support from a Labour govprime culprit for working in iso- emment. That's my guarantee."

But the imperative for reform will to be underlined by a series of fact-files to be issued by Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security.

They will say that in 1949, the first full year of the Welfare State, 13.5 pence in every pound went on social security benefits, compared with 18p in 1971, and 30p today. With welfare benefits now costing the equivalent of £80 per person, per week, 30 per cent of payments went to the poorest fifth of households in 1994-95 - compared with more than 40 per cent for the poorest households in 1979.

At the same time, it is estimated that £4bn a year is now wasted on fraud; enough to build 100 new hospitals.

The Prime Minister told the Commons that welfare reform was required because spending was rising while poverty was getting worse. "That is plainly an unacceptable situation and one that we want to change."

Commons exchanges appeared to bring agreement between Mr Blair, William Hague and Paddy Ashdown on the underlying principles for reform but no consensus on how the issue should be taken forward.

Polly Toynbee, page 23 Correspondent.

change the system for selecting a leader, reports Colin Brown, Chief Political

overwhelmingly to

Tory MPs last night voted As Tory MPs voted yesterday to defeats - Michael Portillo change the system for electing (above) last night reaffirmed his a new leader to one member, credentials as a potential leader of a Euro-sceptic Tory party. one vote (Omov) - the system that helped Labour modernise The change means that the Tory leader, William Hague, its appeal under Tony Blair to

could be challenged if the parliamentary party passed a vote of no confidence in him, but it will avoid the destabilising annual readoption of the leader. Mr Hague immediately wel-

comed the change as the first step on the road to his own modernisation of the Conservative Party. "It is just part of our programme to democratise my party. I want party members to be fully involved in what we what do,"Mr Hague said.

The move to Omov was widely expected after a U-turn by the officers of the 1922 Committee executive, chaired

by Sir Archie Hamilton, backed the change. A total of 110 MPs voted in favour of moving to a system in which a leadership challenge would require a vote of no confidence, with 36 vot-

ing to keep the present system. There were 102 votes for Omov, with 24 votes to keep the existing rules under which only Tory MPs would have the right to take part in leadership votes.

Labour sources accused the Tories of apeing new Labour. "The Tories should be worried - if this scheme had been in place a year ago, William Hague would not be the leader and Kenneth Clarke would be leading the Opposition."

It is unclear whether the change will enhance the chances of Michael Portillo taking over the leadership in the future, but

the former minister reaffirmed his credentials as the leading Euro-sceptic in the party with a speech attacking the European single currency as a matter of principle. By taking a stand on principle against the euro, Mr Portillo went further than Mr Hague, who has laid out a pragmatic case against it for the next ten 10 years. Mr Hague's formula upset pro-European Tory MPs,

long-term possibility of entry. Mr Portillo delighted Tory Euro-sceptic MPs by making it clear that he would never support entry to the single currency because of the powers and sovereignty it would transfer from

including the grandees who

wrote a protest letter to The In-

dependent, but it leaves open the

Britain to a federal Europe. Photograph: Brian Harris



### Tories to choose leader by one member, one vote

recover from successive election

### Union ignores pay-restraint

yesterday issued a major politi- ing Street, the Treasury is main- led exercise but a change of prical challenge to the Government taining its tough line on public orities giving some areas more when it lodged a 10 per cent pay demand on behalf of National Health Service employees.

The claim was issued despite the Chancellor's repeated insistence that the Government will stick to the previous administration's tight limit on public expenditure.

With the pay-review bodies for public-sector workers due to sector pay but was moving to head off a threatened back-

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Alastair Darling, will next week meet officers of the Labour backbench committees to explain the Treasury's strate-

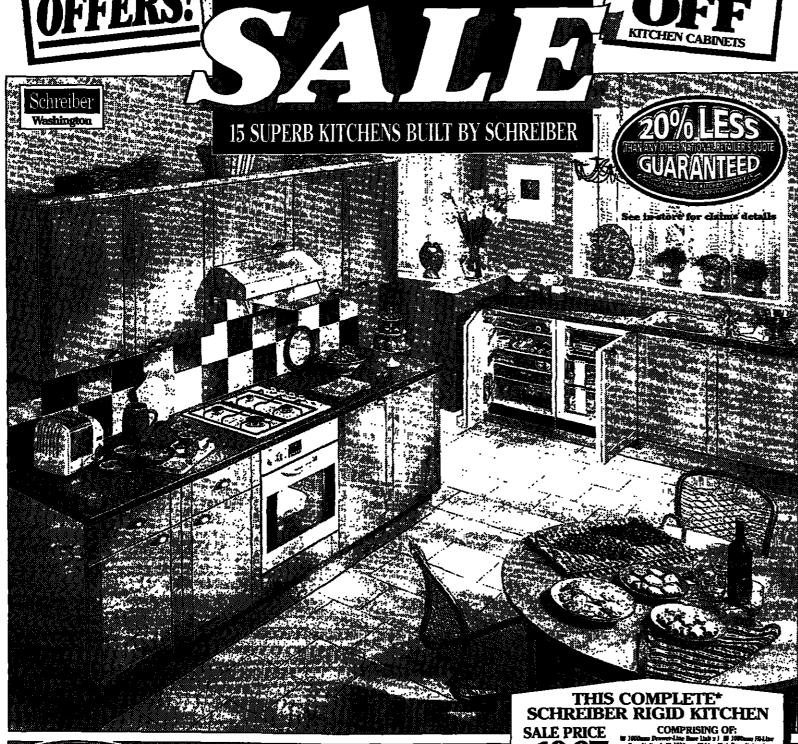
bench revolt over a fresh round of cuts in spending programmes.

gy for changing the spending priorities inherited from the Tories.

Britain's biggest union. Unison, deliver their reports to Down- "He will be saying it is not a cutsmoney." said a source. "And he

will be in listening mode." The Chancellor's warning on pay restraint was ignored by Unison, the 1.2 million strong public service union, which is urging ministers to sanction a settlement which will include a £4.42-an-hour minimum wage.

— Barrie Clement and



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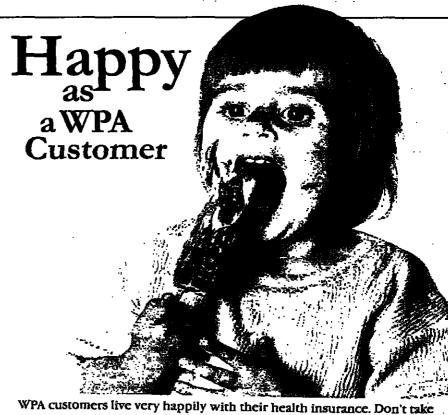
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We asked our house poet Martin

Newell to muse on the subject

The Ballad of

the Tamworth

Two Tamworth pigs en route one day

Both saw the hand of chance held out

And grabbed while they were able

"O not for us the butcher's knife

And not for us the stun-gun

For by the time the week is out

They I know of us in London"

Out of the trailer, through a gap

To run where it might lead them

Along the road to freedom Now Tamworth pies are ginger pies

And make up in athletics

Resourceful, quick and gritty

What they miss in being pretty

For having gained some distance

From the slaughterhouse's thugs

They swam the River Avon

In a Malmesbury environ

Like a chinese team on drugs

They foraged in some woodland

Proclaimed these Pigs of Iron

And they became the heroes

As the Cassidy and Sundance

Of a sentimental nation

Of a porcine situation.

Their trademark Tamworth trotter prints

Since rasher moves are what succeed

Pigs

From piggery to table



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# Pigs' flight to freedom brings promise of sanctuary

Three little pigs went to market, but only one was slaughtered. The other two saved their bacon by making a daring escape from the abattoir. They are still on the police's 'wanted' list, writes Clare Gamer.

The two runaway Ginger Tamworth boars are still on the run after six days. But while they trot around somewhere in Wiltshire, the news on their pal, a third boar transported with them who did not get away, was not so good.

On the two pigs' sixth day of freedom, a spokesman for Newman's Slaughterhouse, in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, said yesterday: "The third member of the group was processed in the usual way.'

Meanwhile, animal sanctuaries across the country were volunteering their services for the surviving five-month-old boars.

Geoff Francis, from Hillside animal sanctuary near King's Lynn, Norfolk, said he would willingly give the heroic boars a home for life. "We would love to have this pair. We already have a refugee from the slaughterhouse, a bullock we called Braveheart, who swam a river to escape - just like the

"We have been inundated with calls from people asking us to save them, some have offered money to help us.

"It is amazing how fugitives like these two catch people's imaginations".

Indeed, it looks as if they will be able to take their pick of retirement homes. At the PALS sanctuary near

Salisbury, Wiltshire, staff said they hoped to have the pigs "safe and well" with them.

runaways is rooting for a happy ending.

eating meat only occasionally, and then never pork, said every-Even one of the policemen one was behind the pair. "Most

luck. If I see them again hopefully it will be in circumstances ture," he said.

whose duty is to apprehend the people wish them the best of were bidding to buy the pigs and money" to secure their future. through the streets of Malmes-made the most of their freedom owner, Arnaldo Dijulio, a counfind them a home yesterday -PC Phil Snow, who admits to where I can wave them good themselves up - and a mystery workers last Thursday. They ran bye and wish them a happy fu-celebrity's representative was round the abattoir yard before other side. also rumoured to be trying to forcing their way through a

The two pigs slipped if only the duo would give through the hands of abattoir

Several national newspapers purchase them, offering "silly hole in the fence and racing off 15 feet to the far bank the pigs timate say will be down to their discuss their future.

they dived in and swam for the were approached.

bury, only to be confronted by in local gardens and showed a cil road sweeper who reared the river Avon. Undaunted, startling turn of speed if they

them on his smallholding. He said he had bred them for slaughter (they are each worth



Call of the wild: The Ginger Tarnworths' great escape has caught the public imagination - 'Most people wish them the best of luck'

Photograph: Peter Cook

#### What the pigs' final fate will After splashing their way be, nobody quite knows. The ul- £40) and was not prepared to

### The breakfast treat that is a little too closely related for comfort



Revolting animals: Napoleon contemplating an uprising

say which was which.

in his satire on Communism,

The two boars who made a break for it this week when they were for the chop were obviously not stupid and, in this respect, they are unexceptional. Professor Peter Brooks, who has

imal Farm. He knew what he George Orwell was spot on was talking about. It may sound to cast pigs as the clever ones strange, I've watched pigs stand back and think about a prob-

He himself was sussed by sows when he tried to do an experiment on their eating habits. Within minutes of installing a computerised feeding system, he saw one of them getting into carved out a career as a pig be- the exit door, defeating the human being is "long pig".

The creatures outside looked haviourist at Plymouth Uni- electronics and gobbling as from pig to man and from man versity, said: "It was really no ac- much food as desired. Twenty develop in the 19th century than their fate as sausages, even their skills, Had they been fresh vegetables, 4) Sunbathing, to pig, and from pig to man again; cident that Orwell made them minutes later, she had taught when wild animals were crossed Children aren't the only ones, in France they could have but remember the lotion. 5)

> Primates -including human beings - are reasonably closely related to pigs. Anatomically, pigs are quite similar to people-hence the use of pig organs in heart valve operations - and like (the majority of) us they are omnivores who will cat almost anything. Apparently. they even taste like us: the Polynesian cannibals' term for

Tamworth. But while we carry on breeding them for the table, the relationship between pigs and people is becoming a little more complex. Films such as Babe

The "modern" pig began to notion that pigs are worth more as Vietnamese, but would test cantaloupes, watermelon, and with imported stock. Distinctive either. Since 1985 the Vietbreeds began to develop, some namese Pot-Bellied pig has bers of wild boars roaming suited to particular parts of been promoted as a bousepet; the country. Hence there is as the "pocket pig" or the "hog Berkshire, Gloucester Old to jog with" on account of their Spots, and the now famous diminutive size. They number

an estimated 200,000 to 500,000

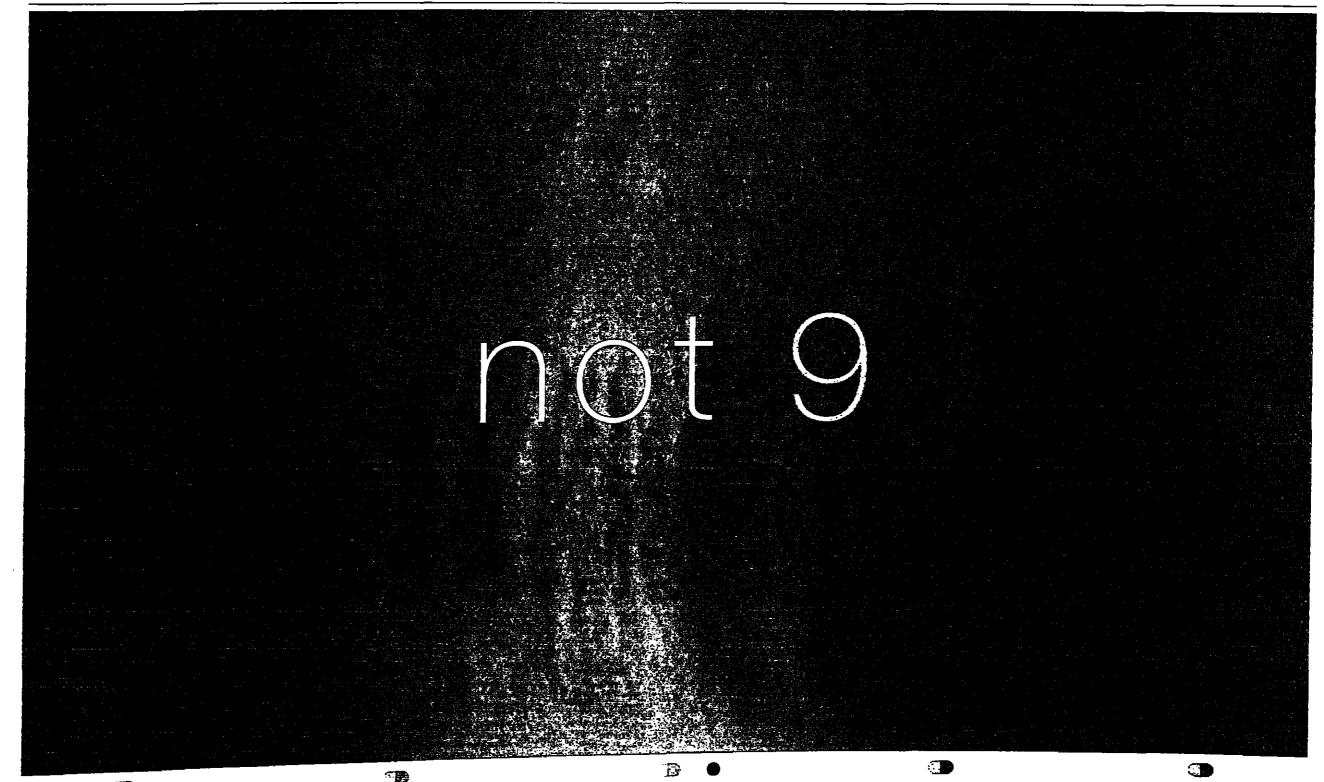
in the US today. So what is the outlook for the breakaway boars of Tamworth, and how can they be helped to overcome their trauma? They

teamed up with the huge numthere. Surviving in the wild here is tougher.

Probably, their best bet is to find some suitably enlightened humans and seek asylum. If you are inclined to help, Mr Riffle suggests 10 things which make a pig happy: 1) grazing on fresh grass, especially clover, 2) Rooting, especially after a rain storm. have inculcated in children the could try to disguise themselves 3) Special treats such as apples.

Belly rubs and butt scratching. 6) Scratching on trees, large rocks, fence posts, and each other. 7) Socialising with other pigs. 8) Wrapping up in blankets or burying themselves in straw during the cold months. 9) Wallowing in mud puddles or wading pools during the hot months. 10) Exploring the woods ...

Which, of course, these porkers been happily doing.



## Mutilated prostitute accused husband of attack



Ann Fidler: No memory of savage attack Photographs: PA

A jury was told yesterday how a man who discovered his mutilated wife barely alive was later accused of carrying out the attack. Steve Boggan heard the latest twist in the trial of Victor Farrant, who is charged with attacking her and murdering another

A former civil servant-turned prostitute woke from a coma after being savagely beaten and accused her husband of trying to kill her, a court was told yesterday.

work in the office of the for-Waldegrave, had been uncon-

scious for 15 days after a say- House Rehabilitation Centre, cussed it on a small basis but age attack allegedly carried out by Victor Farrant But Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday that when her husband, Brett Fidler, called her said: "You tried to kill me, didn't you?"

Mr Farrant, 48, a former builder, denies attempting to murder Mrs Fidler, 45, who was working as a prostitute from her home in Eastleigh, Hampshire, in December 1995. He also denies murdering his former girlfriend Glenda Hoskins at her home in Portsmouth two weeks later.

Mr Fidler, 31, a former gym owner, was cleared of suspicion for the attack on his wife after DNA tests linked blood found at the scene to Mr Far-Ann Fidler, who used to rant. But yesterday, Richard Camden Pratt QC, for the demer Tory minister William fence, revealed details of the phone call to the Victoria

"Do you remember her asking not on a large basis. It was her you 'You tried to kill me didn't business and I had to accept vou'? And you replied 'Yes, I did'," he said. "Did you not say, 'Yes, I did, look at the at a rehabilitation clinic, she trouble you caused me ...' " Mr Fidler said he did not

recall such a reply but if he made it then "It would have been through shock" at being accused, "I definitely would not have said 'yes'. That is stupid," he said.

The court was told that Mrs Fidler had been beaten about in her neck. I could not see any the head with three glass bottles and an iron and had had her face pushed through the toughened glass door of her cooker. She has recovered despite having part of her brain removed, but she has no recollection of the attack. The couple divorced in 1996.

Asked about his feelings towards her work as a prostitute, Mr Fidler replied: "We disthat." Asked what services she performed apart from sex, he replied: "Bits and bobs. She whipped people and things like

Recalling the moment when he found his wife in the blood-spattered kitchen, Mr Fidler said: "There was no physical sign of anything apart from red. She had a wide gash - like a second mouth head injuries at all because her hair was just too matted with blood. I felt shock and disbelief. I could not comprehend how I felt. Actually finding that it was her, I felt sick, very sick.

"You come to terms with it, but I will never get over it. I still wake up sweating every night, seeing her."

Victor Farrant: 'Linked to crime scene by DNA'

### Trial told how IRA bomb was primed

Traces of high explosive were and John Jeffries, whose news-IRA terrorists shortly before the bomb on 9 February 1996. they planted the Docklands was told yesterday.

The explosive - PETN - is said. He alleged IRA bombers chose a private spot on waste- ing for detonator cord. land in Barking, east London a half hour's drive from Docktions for the blast, which claimed two lives.

"No sensible terrorist would the trailer and arm the bomb.

bomb primed," Mr Bevan said. "One would pick a convement place near the final des- the trailer off the lorry." tination to perform the vice] to the explosive, "said Mr. looking vehicle gatesporter with Bevan. "The wasteland would a marker on the back" had travbe an ideal and convenient." Elect on the motion was.

29, from Crossmaglen, Northcause an explosion likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property in the United Kingdom or Ireland between 30 October 1995 and 10 February 1996.

Mr McCardle alone also denies murdering Inam Bashir

found on a trailer abandoned by paper stand was destroyed by

Mr Bevan alleged that imlorry bomb, an Old Bailey court portant evidence was found in the area where the trailer was abandoned. Swabs taken from used in detonator cord, John the trailer showed the presence Bevan, QC, for the prosecution, of PETN - a constituent of Semtex also used as an explosive fill-

The presence of PETN on that trailer makes a clear and lands - to make final prepara- logical link to the bomb lorry," mr Bevan said. "The bombers had two jobs to do - to take off

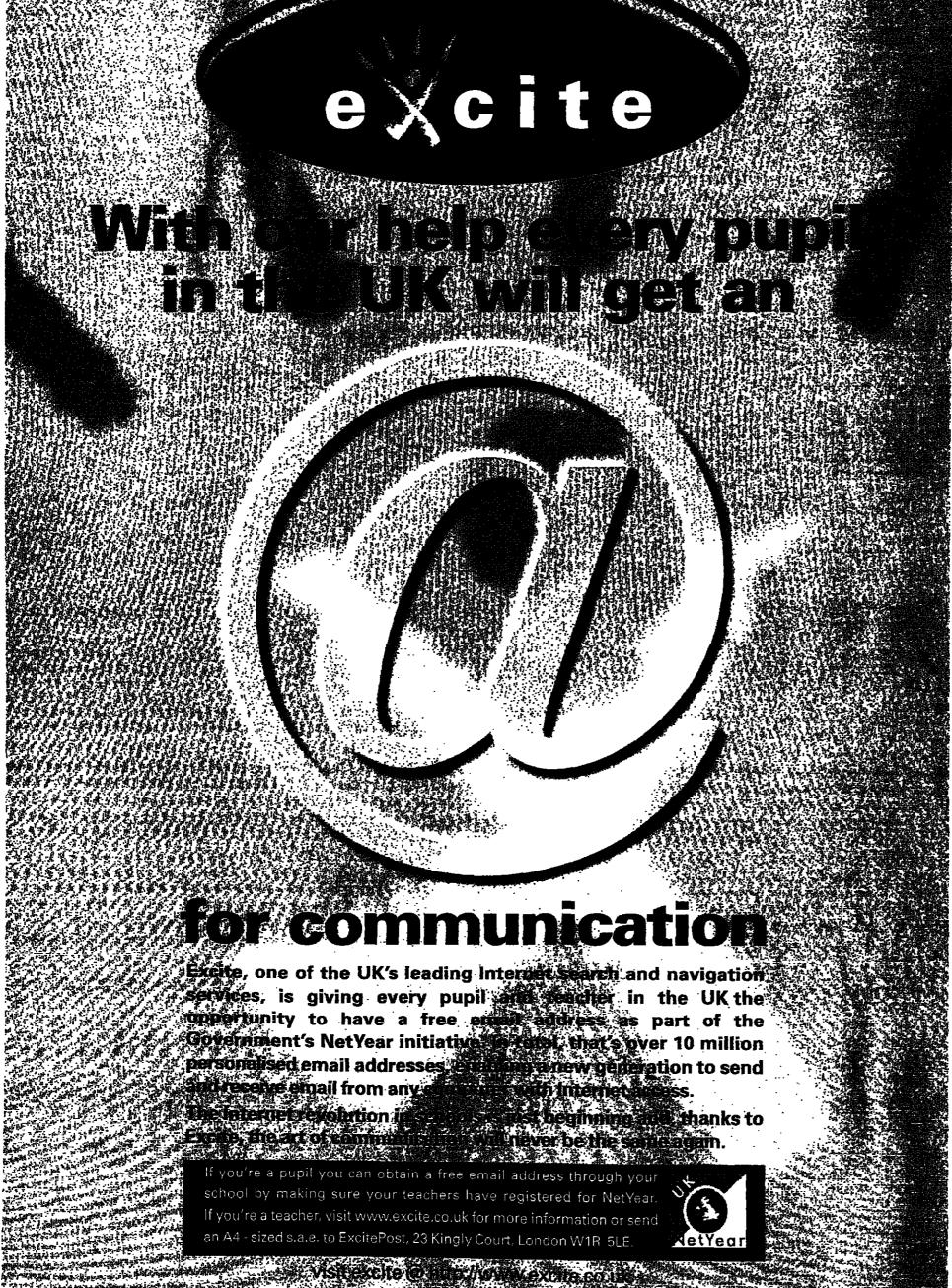
wish to drive a lorryload of home-made explosives from first, dealing with the deto-Belfast to London with the nator cord, they got PETN on their hands or gloves and left it on the trailer, when they took

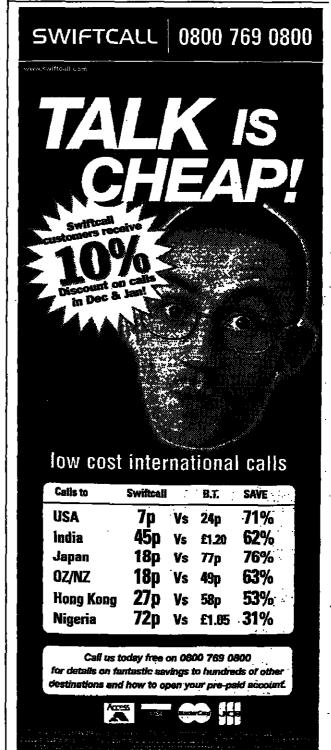
Motorway video surveillance important task of linking the footage from various cameras time and power unit [timing de- showed a "largish; ungainly

place." When it reached Canary

Tachographs recording the Wharf the clock would be set. lorry's progress on the two days Patrick McKinley, 34, from leading up to the bomb were Newry, and James McCardle, also found at Barking. It had travelled from Strangaer to ern Ireland, deny conspiring to Carlisle on 7 February, Carlisle to South Mimms, Hertfordshire - stopping at a service station at Cannock, Staffordshire -on 8 February and from South Mimms to Barking and then South Quay, Docklands, on 9

February, he said. The trial continues today.





was primed

# My mother is beautiful at 66, artist tells world

An artist yesterday displayed posters of her mother dressed only in underwear. David Lister, Arts News Editor, reports on a shock art exhibition designed to highlight ageism.

It is a novel and aesthetic way of helping the aged. And it keeps it in the family.

An artist yesterday claimed that she was forcing people to confront ageism after placing five 6m by 3m poster hoardings featuring her 66-year-old mother in her underwear outside a busy Tube station.

Melanie Manchot said the images were "quite shocking" to London commuters at first. "You can see them taking a second glance," she said. The 31-year-old said her campaign is aimed at making people realise how artificial the stereotypical image of "near-naked busty blondes or super-slim 12-year-old-looking models" really is.

The artist, who is German but lives with her partner and baby daughter in Waterloo, south London, said: "The common view of women is that they are eternally young and beautiful. The terrible thing is that once you get beyond a certain age you are invisible - the way we are now is so prejudiced against older people, and so narrow-minded.

"My mother is featured in five different poses. She looks totally natural and she is proud to be who she is. The images are beautiful and I hope everyone can see that."

Ms Manchot's mother, Margaret, said she was happy to help her daughter get the message across. "I believe in her cause but I'm glad I live in Germany so nobody will recognise my pictures."

Ms Manchot has been studying the representation of women through her art for several years and was driven to this display by the constant negative imagery of older people. The giant images outside South Kensington station in west London, are designed like an advertisement with a picture

on one side and text on the other side. The script on the posters tells the pub-



Family values: Melanie Manchot in front of the poster of her mother outside South Kensington station in London yesterday

Photograph: Fiona Hanson

lie that only five minutes walk away at the the posters. She said: "I hope they help to for pressure group Pensioners Voice, cessfully if there is not respect for all ages." a full exhibition of Ms Manchot's work and "it includes a full-frontal picture of my mother as well".

Anne Peck, of the Association of Greater London Older Women, welcomed

Blue Gallery, 93 Walton Street, there is make everybody see that there is benefit and said: "Everything we see and read about kled bodies to be more beautiful than wrincharacter and expression in wrinkles."

And Robert Stansfield, spokesman ments ... A community cannot work suc-

age. Even Tony Blair is guilty with his 'Edkled bodies - in fact there is far more ucation, education, education, 'Welfare

A spokesperson for the charity Age Conbeauty at all ages. Many consider unwrin- is focused on people of below a certain cern England said: "We are constantly campaigning against negative ageist stereotypes.

We welcome and commend any activities to Work', and 'Young Britain', state- that promote positive images of older people in our youth-obsessed society."



### Devotees come to rescue of favourite painting

A chance encounter with an old favourite elegant Georgian home for much longer. visited the Holburne together 38 years soon panel. But it is peeling and the conservagot the "Beauties of Bath" exhibition at Christie's, London, off to good start even before its formal opening last night.

The exhibition is intended to draw attention to Bath's Holburne Museum both to the treasures it contains and the fact that without a substantial

the display while visiting another exhibition at the St James's auction house and painting Reverend Robert Carter Thelwall and his family (shown left). The adoptive ing and for the Carter family used a thin

So organisers were delighted when after getting married and have returned two long-time fans of the Holburne noticed many times since - but were unaware of unending financial struggle.

Rev Carter and his ladies are in serioffered to "adopt" the 1776 George Stubbs ous need of attention. In the 1770s Stubbs was experimenting with methods of paintinjection of cash it may not survive in its parents, who did not wish to be identified. delicate layer of pigment on unprepared

tion work to be paid for by the new benefactor is likely to cost many times more than the £84 commission Stubbs received.

The exhibition, which runs until 3 February, includes paintings by Gainsborough. Allan Ramsay and Angelica Kauffmann. — Stephen Goodwin, Heritage Correspondent

### **Body** art tests limits of taste

A grotesque exhibition of human corpses is Germany's artistic event of the year. Imre Karacs reports on Mannheim's "Bodyworlds".

A six-month old foetus, eyes half open, floats at the end of an umbilical cord out of an open womb. A tiptoeing male athlete stares straight ahead. A circle has been cut out of his forehead to offer a view of the brain. On the right side of his body, deep gashes expose the flesh. On the left, the scalpel has peeled away the skin, allowing the lung, the stomach, bones and tendons to hang out.

Nothing is left to the imagination at the Museum of Technology in Mannheim, where 200 human bodies preserved in plastic and dissected in accordance with their creator's whim, have been stretching the boundaries of artistic freedom since October. Condemned as "immoral" by the Christian churches and denounced by the local government, the show has, never the less, been a great success.

Hardly anyone ever visited the turbines and steam engines that are on permanent display in a concrete-and-glass building at the edge of the south German city. But the "Runner", the "Transparent Body" and "Pregnant Woman" have attracted nearly a quarter of a million people to the ultimate voyeuristic experience.

"But is it art?", ask the critics, "or merely post-modernist entertainment in the worst possible taste". The answer, according to Gunther von Hagens, the creator, is neither. It's all in the name of science.

Seventeen years ago, Mr von Hagens left his job as anatomist, filled a garage in Heidelberg with fresh corpses, and got to work on his project to develop a novel technique for preserving human tissue. The "plastination" process he perfected immerses the body into ice-cold acetone in order to expel water and fat, and then replaces soft tissue with tough silicone resin or plastic.

The results are stunning. The "specimens" can be manipulated and frozen in motion choreographed by Mr von Hagen. Like the inhabitants of Pompeii, the exhibits are thus captured in some mundane task: answering telephones, leaping through the air, or even giving birth.

Immorality beckons, to Mr von Hagen as well as his subjects. On their way out of the museum, visitors can sign up for plastination. The ledger containing the names of volunteers is filling up fast.



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Surgically enhanced: Pamela Anderson Lee happily breast-fed her child despite fears over the effects of silicone implants Photograph: Gregg DeGuire

## Medical advances under threat from patients who sue

implants that left baby ill' said the weekend headlines about a British case. But scientists and doctors from the US say fears of lawsuits are leading health companies to shy away from providing new, useful technologies. Who loses? You, the patient especially if you are female. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, investigates.

'Mother sues over breast American scientists and doctors are worried that lawsuits over medical equipment are killing off potentially useful technologies in the US - and that the same trend could follow here.

Their biggest objections are that the lawsuits, and sometimes decisions that follow, are based on "junk science" which does not stand up to scientific scrutiny. Yet manufacturers fight shy of them because they don't want to end up with huge legal bills.

At risk, they say, are not just silicone breast implants, but also contraceptive pills, drugs for children, and even essential items such as pacemakers.

"It's a serious issue." said Cheston Berlin, a paediatrician at Penn State University's medical school, who complains that pharmaceuticals companies are so scared of lawsuits that 80 per cent of drugs in the US don't have any labelling advice for doctors on what dosage children should receive. The result: if anything goes wrong, the doctor gets sued.

Elizabeth Connell, an emeritus professor at Emrie University school of medicine, said: phatically" no demonstrable There is a frenzy of litigation effects on children of mothers in the US over medical issues. It's the worst thing that's ever mothers with implants have happened in the history of medicine for women in the US."

As a result, she said: "We have lost intra-uterine [contra- Pamela Anderson Lee, proud ceptivel devices, almost lost hreast implants, and compa- and a surgically-enhanced bust. nies working on womens' reproductive health issues have used to be 14 companies working on female contraceptives: duction is not caused by mergers or business failure: "They just shut down their whole reproless litigation."

Last weekend, many new papers carried a story saying that Mary Bowler, from North Walsham in Norfolk, had been granted legal aid to sue Dow Corning, which makes silicone breast implants. Ms Bowler claims her baby Danielle was harmed during the three days she was breast-fed because, Ms Bowler claims, the implants were deteriorating and leaked

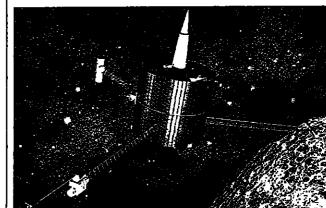
into the breast milk. However, contrary to the reports, the legal aid will only cover the cost of seeking expert opinion, to see whether "there are reasonable prospects of

success" if the case goes ahead. It is still a long way from the courts. According to some American scientists, it should never get there. Ms Bowler's solicitor has declined to comment.

Dr Wendy Epstein, who has investigated the field of siliconerelated legal cases closely, says that large-scale epidemiological studies have always shown that there is no difference in the ease in women with or without silicone implants, and "emwith implants. Certainly, some shown no worries about breastfeeding - the highest-profile of whom is probably the celebrity owner of both a breast-fed baby

But a 1994 US study apparently showed that four of 11 childropped from 20 to three. There dren breast-fed by mothers with implants had illness and low weight gain. Dr Epstein charges now there are just two." The re- that the figures were distorted by only including ill children in the studies only after identifymg them. That seriously distorts. ductive health divisions and the statistics, and means they are went into fields where there was not a useful guide to the effects

### Search for ice water on Moon



The question of whether the Moon harbours huge reserves of ice water should be answered in about a month. The Lunar Prospector (pictured above in an artist's impression) launched last week by the United States space agency Nasa, has started scouring the lunar surface for possible reserves of water which could prove invaluable for any future human Moon colonies. The four-foot robot explorer is orbiting the Moon 96 km above its surface.

The search for water will be carried out by a neutron spectrometer, which will search the surface for signs of hydrogen. "If water ice is present in the quantity some people have pre-

dicted, we may know that in the first month of the mission," mis-

**Human cloning** techniques in use

Scientists investigating genetic outside the nucleus, we might problems are already experi- be able to fix those defects," he menting on adult human cells told the magazine. Mr Rosenwith techniques that could pave the way to human cloning, according to new reports.

sion manager Scott Hubbard said.

Experts in the field warned that while those people might not be interested in using their skills for cloning, others who followed them would - and that that would make the arrival of the first human clones inevitable.

Following the heavily-hyped claims by Dr Richard Seed, a Chicago-based physicist, that he intends to open a cloning clinic. American scientists have cloning mentioned by Ruth begun to reveal the parallel

According to New Scientist ment last year. magazine, a team led by Zev Rosenwaks at the Cornell Medical Center in New York, is al- Beaverton, commented: "I unready transferring nuclei from derstand there's already a bit of cells with chromosomal damage a race among cutting edge IVF into healthy egg cells to see how clinics to get into this technolthey develop.

"If the real problem lies

waks said the same technique could be used to grow eggs in culture for women with damaged ovaries.

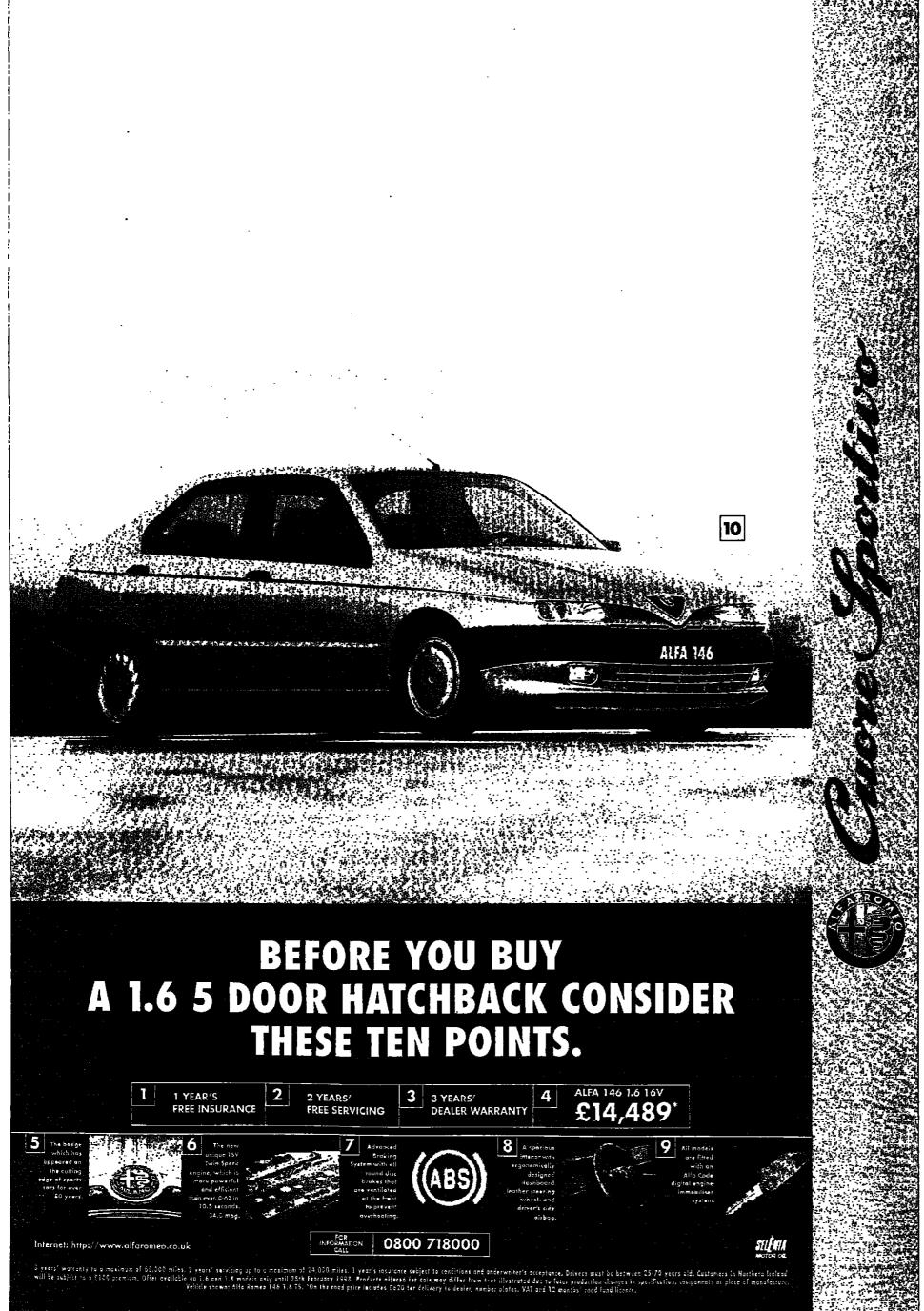
Dolly the sheep, the first : cloned adult mammal, was produced at the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh by taking the nucleus from a healthy cell and transplanting it into an egg cell which had had its nucleus re-

The Cornell team's work is a variation on that, and reflects a possible useful applications of Deech, head of the UK Human work they are doing which could one day lead to cloning.

Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) to Parlia-

> Don Wolf, of the Oregon Regional Primate Centre in

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## Castro makes political capital out of Pope's Havana visit

Pope John Paul II visits communist Cuba next week, the only Latin American country he has never been to. Phil Davison, Latin America Correspondent, looks at the welcome he can expect and what Cubans want from him

Believers or no. Cubans were glued to their television sets on Tuesday night to see an unusual sight: the island's Roman Catholic Cardinal delivering a speech about human rights and liberty.

President Fidel Castro had allowed Cardinal Jaime Ortega to broadcast to the nation in advance of the Pope's visit here between 21 and 25 January. It was the first time a churchman had been given air time since Mr Castro declared Cuba a communist and atheist state shortly after his 1959 revolution.

Cardinal Ortega did not push his luck. Referring to the Pope's role in the Eastern Europe of the Eighties, he described him as a patriot rather than an anti-communist and painted a rather abstract picture of the pontiff's idea of human rights and liberty. The new chumminess between Mr Castro and the Church emerged

Both sides are bending over backwards to make the Pope's visit a success and only the 77-year-old pontiff's frail health, visible when he stumbled during a baptismal service in the Sistine Chapel last weekend, long trans-Atlantic flight into Cuba's tropical beat.

Both sides have also played down any political motive for the trip. After 38 years in power, the shrewd Mr Castro clearly sees the Pope more of a potential ally particularly by attacking the three-decade old US embargo on the island - than a po-



is seen as a potential disruption after a loons: The Pope aims to consolidate Cuba's resurgent Catholicism. But the image of Che Guevara is also getting a fresh coat of paint Photographs: Reuters

tential threat to his survival by stirring up the masses.

Even what might have been blown into a major diplomatic incident was played down by the Vatican. Vatican officials checking out the pontiff's accommo-

phone, presumably planted by Cuban state security agents. A mild protest was made but there was little sense of outrage or even surprise.

The Pope's aim is to consolidate the

dation last month found a hidden micro-resurgence of Catholic identity in Cuba afclosed down and Catholics discriminated ter almost four decades when Christianiwas taboo on the communist island.

Since the end of the Cold war, howev-After Mr Castro declared Cuba atheist in er, the Cuban leader has given the Church 1962, hundreds of priests, many of them

Church to balance an upsurge in Protestantism. There are now more than 50 Protestant dominations in Cuba, with 900 individual churches and at least 3.000 casas culto, or private houses, where prayer

services are held. Cuba is also pervaded by Afro-Cuban creeds such as Santeria and Abakua, similar to Haiti's voodoo, brought to the island by African slaves and gradually blended with elements of Catholicism. Many Catholics believe in or practise elements of these creeds. Leaders of the Afro-Cuban religions have complained at being excluded from the Pontiff's planned meetings with

Protestant and Jewish leaders next week. Acutely aware of the deep-rooted and widespread influence of the Afro-Cuban creeds, particularly among black Cubans who were the backbone of his stand against the wealthy elite, Mr Castro smiled on them after his revolution. But Catholic priests in Havana predict the Pope may make at least a veiled criticism of these creeds while in Cuba, encouraging their practitioners to integrate fully into the Catholic

Meanwhile, the Pope's visit has split the exiled Cuban community, mostly in the Miami area. The archdiocese of Miami. which organised a 1,200-passenger cruiser liner to sail from Miami to Havana to see the Pope and had permission from both the US and Cuba, was forced to cancel after heavy criticism from anti-Castro radicals. The latter have always insisted that no Cuban exile should return while Mr Castro is still in power.

One anti-Castro group, the Democracy Movement, says it will set sail in a "prayer flotilla" towards Cuba during the Pope's visit despite US State Department warn-

ings to stay away from Cuban waters. "The US and Cuba should read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which they signed, and which gives the right to enter our waters and our territory," said more scope, allowing open worship. His Democracy Movement leader Ramon Sal Spanish, were expelled, churches were critics respond that he is using the Catholic Sanchez.

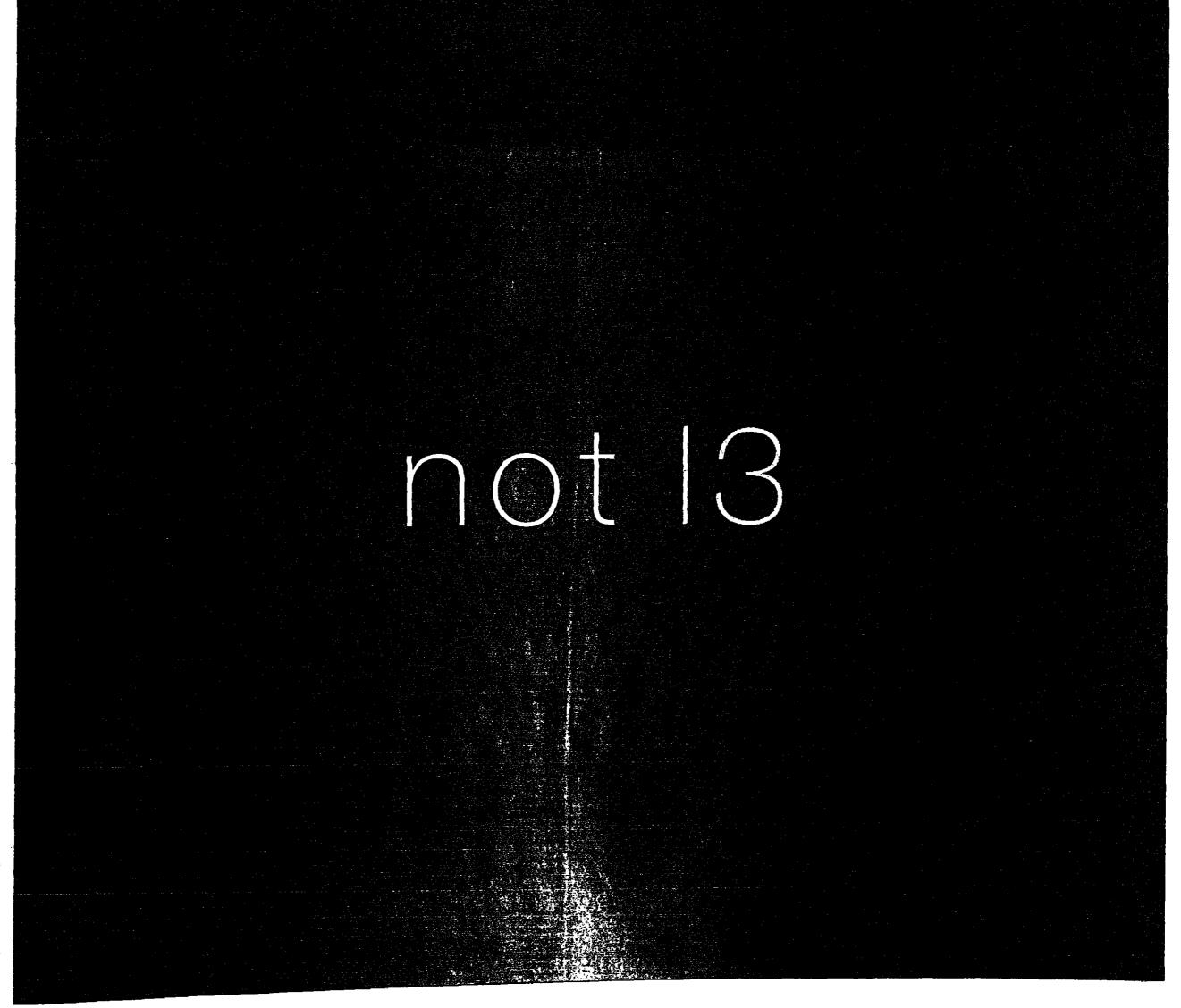
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### Strain starts to show in Labour's EU honeymoon

Europe's honeymoon with Labour began showing the first signs of strain yesterday amid warnings that slick PR and smooth words are no longer enough. Kotherine Butler reports from Strasbourg.

Unveiling plans for Britain's six-month EU presidency to the European Parliament yesterday, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, repeated the Government's aim of "reconnecting" Europe to the people. Labour would try to build in Britain "a national consensus" after years of Tory hostility he

Mr Cook was left in no doubt during the debate which followed, however, of the deep sense of disappointment at Labour's decision to keep Britain out of the project which will have more impact than any other on its people: the single currency.

And despite a general acknowledgement that the Blair government has transformed

and Europe, MEPs demanded that it now begin to deliver, to turn good intentions into concrete results, in particular on monetary

Betraying some irritation at new Labour's apparent emphasis on style over substance where Europe is concerned, the Liberal leader in the Strasbourg Parliament sniped that few presidencies had enjoyed such goodwill on taking office "and few have engaged in such a vast public relations exercise to generate it".

Gijs De Vries said it was "regrettable" that the British government had not been prepared to state "unambiguously and irrevocably" if and when the UK will join the single currency.

The presidency will thus enter these crucial negotiations with one hand tied firmly behind its back. Tony Blair wants to lead in Europe - but Britain cannot expect to lead from the sidelines," Mr De Vries told

The Christian Democrat leader, Wilfried

the atmosphere in relations between Britain Martens, a former Belgian prime minister. also regretted the UK's self-imposed disqualification from the first wave of EMU and warned that "a heavy responsibility" would be placed on Britain to win over public acceptance for the single currency.

To raised eyebrows from Mr Cook, the Strasbourg assembly's Green leader, Claudia Roth, said the Blair government appeared to be conducting a "rock and roll presidency" while the SNP's Winnie Ewing speaking on behalf of deputies in the European Radical group said it reminded her more of "a slow foxtrot" with foot dragging on the single currency.

The Foreign Secretary said Britain's priorities would be on jobs, crime and the environment but moved to allay fears on Britain's role in the negotiations on monetary union. "We will discharge this responsibility to the best of our abilities fully and scrupulously in a way that shows Europe's constructive approach at is best. We want Economic and Monetary Union to be



news conference yesterday, where he denounced the soft drugs ban which benefits Mafia dealers Photograph: Reuters

#### Neo-Nazi ejected from inquiry

German army's links with neo-Nazis was plunged into farce yesterday when the key player showed up uninvited and was ejected from the premises.

Manfred Roeder, the convicted neo-Nazi terrorist who is at the centre of the scandal, was told he would not be called as a witness. "We will not provide extremists with a forum." declared the Social Democrat MP, Walter Kolbow.

Yesterday was the first, closed, meeting of the committee, convened at the end of last year after a spate of embarrassing revelations. Roeder's appearance by invitation at Germany's most prestigious military academy in 1995 and alleged links to the top brass head the list of "isolated incidents" involving the army and neo-Nazis.

Roeder had received material help from the army, including three vehicles, for his 'charitable work" in East Prussia - he planned to repopulate former East Prussia with ethnic Germans from other parts of the former-USSR. The vehicles never reached their stated destination: Roeder sold them.

the defence ministry referred to hit back. Graffiti onhouses de-

#### Croats sweep back with a vengeance

lesss!

A parliamentary inquiry into the History goes into reverse today, when Croatian authority is reimposed in an area of Croatia which just a few years ago many Serbs assumed would belong to them for the rest of time.

In November 1991, the siege and destruction of Vukovar symbolised the horror of the first war in Europe since 1945. The Yugoslav army shelled the town into ruins. The inhabitants crawled

from the cellars to find themselves at the heart of a Serb-occupied eastern Croatia.

But this has been yet another defeat for Slobodan Milosevic. the Serbian leader who remains in power despite baving lost everything that his army fought for. In 1995, the Croatian army re-occupied a large area of southern Croatia where Serbs had been living for hundreds of years. In the two years that followed, Croatia gradually, under the eye of the UN, re-established control over eastern Slavonia.

But the reintegration in Croatia has several times been postponed. The UN has insisted on guarantees that Serbs will not suffer when Croats move back in. But there are many who thirst for the Roeder affair as a "striking clare: "[Serb nationalists], do not fear: we are staying here."

– Steve Crawshaw

### US 'sorry' for junta support

Seeking to free Greek relations with Washington from becoming "hostages to history," the US ambassador to Athens yesterday apologised for America's unwillingness to strongly oppose. Greece's 1967-74 military dictatorship.

The comments by Nicholas Burns were clearly aimed at establishing a fresh outlook toward the United States, which is taking a higher profile in efforts to ease disputes in the region.

Among the chief Greek criticisms of US policy was America's weak response to the junta, which many Greeks perceived as tacit support for the regime.

### The sock that stops your feet smelling

There are some inventions which transform human existence as it has hitherto been lived or endured. To the aircraft. the computer and the nose-hair clipper must now be added socks-which-don't-smell.

Two French clothes manu-

facturers have begun - with mixed success - to market socks, underclothes and sportswear treated with chemicals which kill the bacteria generated by human sweat. A third company has pro-

duced another twist on the same idea, knickers and brassières which do smell but sweetly - of pink grapefruit, water-melon and spices. According to one of the

largest French market-research companies, Cofremca, consumers in France and elsewhere are increasingly preoccupied with smells and how to avoid them. The firm predicts a rapidly expanding market for "bio-active" garments, an idea first developed in Japan.

It appears that human sweat is not, in itself, smelly. It is only when broken down by bacteria that it begins to make its presence known. The smell-resistant

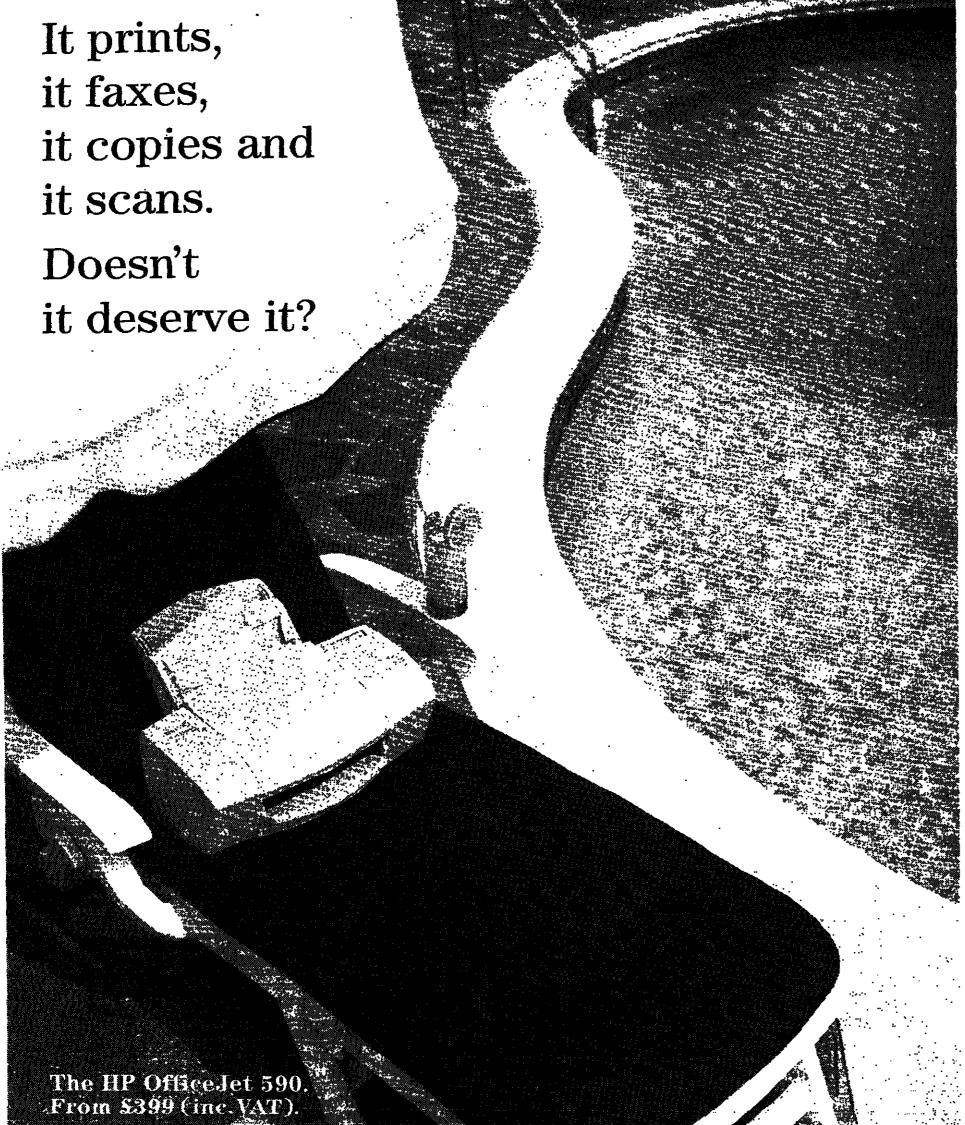
socks and knickers, on sale in France since last summer, are made from fibres impregnated with chemicals which keep bacteria below a nasally critical level. According to their manufacturers, the efficacy of the garments increases, not decreases, every time they are

The head of one of the companies, Jean Fournier, of Mailfix, say that sales are good and market research suggests that there is a "latent demand" for products of this kind. But retailers remain cautious, reporting that the increased cost of the non-smelly clothes - up to 40 per cent extra - puts off some consumers.

A collection of pre-scented undergarments produced by Nevret - claimed as a first - will be only 10 per cent more expensive than usual. The clothes are dotted with tiny embroidered roses which contain micro-capsules of scent. As the clothes rub against the body, the pleasant odour is released in subliminal doses.

The new line will be released just before St Valentine's Day on 14 February.

— John Lichfield, Paris

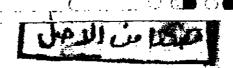


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Croats sweep back with a vengeance

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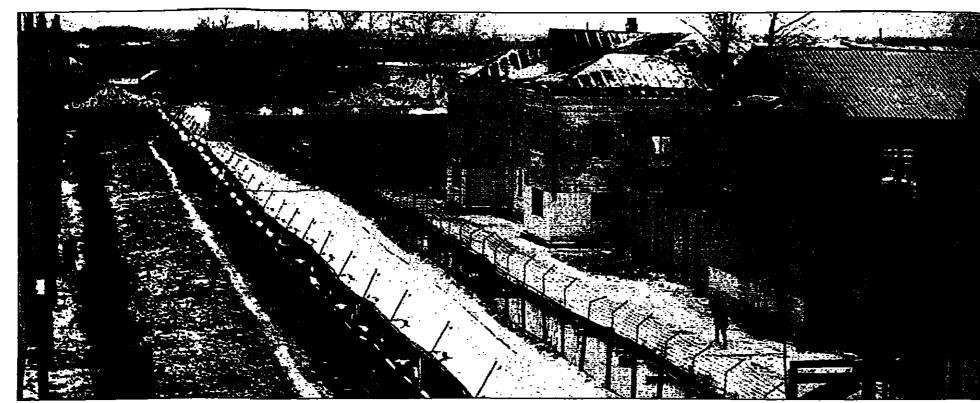
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## How a meeting with British troops led to Siberian hell



Find out why

these figures simply

don't add up.

comfort: Anatoly Shandalov felt warmer in 1952 the barracks of a Siberian labour camp than in his unheated flat in Haifa in Israe

Shandalov, a 16-year-old Russian Jew with a liking for English literature, became friendly with two British sergeants in Lvov. Five years later he was arrested, tortured and sentenced to 25 years in prison. Our correspondent reports from Jerusalem on Mr Shandalov's long search for the two soldiers who changed his life.

In 1945 Anatoly

In May 1945 Anatoly Shandalov, a 16-year-old Jew who had returned to Lvov in Western Ukraine on the heels of the retreating German army, met Grace and James Logie from a British military mission as he walked along the street.

Interested in English literature and wanting to improve his English he went back to their hotel. In the course of several meetings they talked about the war and celebrated the defeat of Germany together.

Mr Shandalov recalls: "On parting they left me a note: 'We, two Englishmen, are very glad to have met you. We hope that our friendship will be everlast-

### BY PATRICK COCKBURN

ing. Long live Churchill! Long live Marshal Stalin!"

not seem dangerous to Mr Shandalov. It was the high point of the wartime alliance between the Soviet Union and the West. Sitting in his small flat in Haifa, speaking near perfect, but slightly literary English, he says: "It never occurred to me, a naive youth, that a contact with allies might be considered a crime by the Soviet state security." After meeting the soldiers he resolved to study English, entered Lvov University and was writing his diploma essay on George Bernard Shaw's play The Chocolate Sol-MVD security police in 1950. meeting. By the time he

During his first interrogation Mr Shandalov was accused of being a British agent. He says the investigator alleged he was recruited by the British SIS to serve as a spy. "I got paid for the service with whiskey, cigarettes and chocolates." He had also, according to testimony of

a hotel chambermaid who had eavesdropped on his conversation with Sgts Logie and Grace, "slandered Soviet reality in my talks with the British military mission".

After months of interrogation, sleep deprivation and beatings, Mr Shandalov was sentenced to 25 years in prison and five years loss of civil liberties. Stalin died in 1953 but he was only released in 1956. As an ex-prisoner he found it difficult to get a job. In 1990 he and his wife, with \$150 between them, emigrated to Israel.

But for years Mr Shandalov had wanted to trace Frederick Grace and James Logie, the unwitting cause of his troubles. He had heard nothing from them after 1945. He wrote to them, but his letters were never answered. He says: "In all probability they were intercepted." After he reached Israel he wrote to the BBC World Service, Missing Persons Helpline and the Ministry of Defence. None was able to help.

In July, The Independent published part of Mr Shandalov's story and he was disappointed when there was no response. Then in October Agnes White, from West Drayton, wrote to say that she was the daughter of James Logie whom she confirmed was part of the British military mission in Moscow. She had received a clipping about Mr Shandalov from a relative in Oslo. Her father had died of cancer in 1983, but had served as a soldier in Germany and Hong Kong.

It remains unclear what Sgt Logie and Sgt Grace were doing in Lvov in 1945. Even at the height of the wartime alliance the Soviet Union treated allied missions in Moscow as temporarily licensed spies.

Mrs White says her father would never reveal much about what he was doing in the Soviet Union though he did volunteer that "the Russians were treating the Germans much as the Germans had treated the

He had not mentioned to his family his encounter with a young Russian in a hotel in Lvov. when they had drunk vodka together and sung Noel Coward songs to celebrate VE Day.

Nevertheless, Mr Shandalov feels that he has never escaped the consequences of that brief reached Haifa in Israel he was too old to find a job.

Sitting in his unheated room he says he caught himself "in an ironical thought, that then, in remote 1952, in the barracks of the Siberian labour camp, I felt myself warmer and more comfortable".

At the time the meeting did

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### SA urges help for Rwanda

South Africa, breaking from its cautious diplomacy on the troubled Great Lakes region, yesterday denounced a guerrilla campaign being waged by Hutu rebels and urged the international community to act. Condemning the slaughter of nine Roman Catholic nuns at a convent in Rwanda's north-west by Hutu rebels earlier this month, South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement the Tutsi-led Kigali govemment should be supported. Reuters, Johannesburg

#### Safeguard for Antarctic

A 50-year moratorium on mining and oil exploration in the Antarctic took effect yesterday with environmentalists hailing it as the most advanced step yet towards protecting the planet.

It took the governments of the 26 countries that adopted the protocol in Madrid in 1991 more than six years individually to ratify the ban. Japan last month was the final signatory to approve it, clearing the way for implementation.

- Reuters, Madrid

### Unesco bid to help Bolshoi

Unesco, the UN agency for arts and culture, said yesterday that it would launch a fund-raising drive to raise £215m to renovate Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre.

Unesco said two Bolshoi directors would meet its officials this week to discuss the work needed on the dilapidated 142year-old building.

### Moscow goes to Grozny

Senior Russian officials held negotiations with Chechen leader Shamil Basayev yesterday, two days after Russia's chief prosecutor said he still viewed Mr Basayev as a wanted criminal.

A high-level delegation travelled from Moscow to the Americans about confidential-Chechen capital, Grozny for the closed-door talks with Mr Basayev, who is forming a new government, and Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov, Russian news agencies said.

Reuters, Moscow

#### Hindu Ganges gathering

Thousands of Hindu pilgrims gathered on the banks of the Ganges as morning broke in the holy city of Hardwar yesterday.

Chanting hymns and praying, men, women and children stepped down into the chilly waters to cleanse themselves of sin as the last Kumbh Mela festival of this century got underway.

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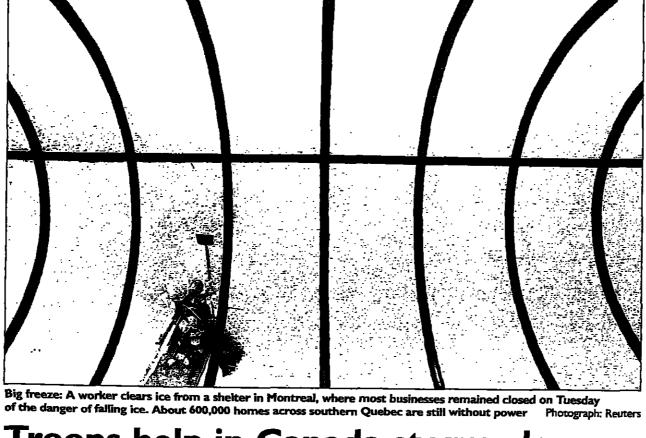
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### Troops help in Canada storm clear-up

In Canada's largest-ever peacetime army operation, thousands of soldiers were yesterday deployed throughout the area battered by last week's ice storm.

"They have become peace agents," Prime Minister Jean Chretien said on Tuesday, during a tour of the so-called Blackout Triangle area south of Montreal, where power to 1 million people is not expected to be restored for one to two more weeks.

About 600,000 homes across southern Quebec and 65,000 in eastern Ontario remained without power yesterday, nine days after the most destructive ice storm ever in Canada began pounding the region. The provincial power company, Hydro-

stricken region that it planned rotating blackouts of up to six hours in areas with power in order to ease pressure on its system.

Ghannoum, a Hydro-Quebec transmissionline specialist. "If everybody were to take all the power they needed, we would overload the lines and cut off everybody."

Though power has been restored to most households in Montreal, more than 400,000 homes in about 100 towns to the south and east are expected to remain without electricity for one to two weeks while the transmission lines are repaired.

With night-time temperatures forecast

Quebec, warned customers throughout the to fall to -18C, officials have been pleading with families in the Blackout Triangle to find warmer quarters, either in community shelters or at private homes in ar-"We are in a crisis situation," said Elias eas with power. Police and soldiers were instructed to check on residents and urge those in danger to evacuate.

More than 12,000 soldiers have been deployed to help with tree-clearing and relief operations in the stricken areas. Their duties include providing security in evacuated neighbourhoods.

The storm and subsequent power cuts have been blamed for 16 deaths in eastern Ontario and southern Quebec.

- AP, Montreal

### Algeria rejects EU terrorism mission

Algeria yesterday delivered a stinging rebuff to the European Union, rejecting a proposed visit by European officials which it had earlier seemed ready to accept. Rupert Comwell reports on a change of mind which further reduces the prospects of outside help in ending the country's savage civil war.

Only 24 hours earlier it seemed the diplomatic impasse had been broken. Appalled and horrified by a conflict which had claimed up to 1,700 lives in the past fortnight alone, the European Union on Tuesday agreed to despatch the political directors of the Luxembourg, British and Austrian foreign ministries to discuss the war, seemingly assured of a go-ahead from

Yesterday, however, the plan came to nought Ahmed Attaf, the Algerian Foreign Minister, told a hastily convened news conference that the EU "troika" visit was "inappropriate", claiming its level was too low, and that the European countries had given no assurance they would join in combating the Islamic "terrorism" which the military regime insists is exclusively responsible for the slaughter. "The delegation is not coming," Mr Attaf said.

In an initial reaction, the British EU Presidency declared it was "surprised and disappointed" at the refusal. But, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook added, the level of the delegation should not be a sticking point and a full-scale ministerial mission could still be arranged.

Europe remained "determined to engage Algeria in dialogue" over the civil war, which has claimed about 75,000 lives since it began in 1992 - and whatever happens, the crisis will be high on the agenda of the

next EU foreign ministers' meeting on 26 January, which had hoped to hear a report from the three political directors.

But there was no disguising the shock in Brussels and London over what has happened. Though contacts are continuing, and the British ambassador in Algiers has separately requested to visit the scenes of recent massacres in the west of the country, the Europeans appear once again to have underestimated the pride and prickliness of the Algerians.

"What is on offer today is an EU delegation made up of foreign ministry directors," Mr Attaf explained, while Algeria was being asked to provide ministers for them to meet. This was "not appropriate" to the important matters that could have been dis-

He accused European governments of backtracking on "a commitment" to help combat terrorism. There had been "reservations and hesitations" on this point, "far from what we wish". In fact, what Algeria demands is a crackdown by EU states on Islamic fundamentalists in exile.

France, the former colonial power, is reluctant to take that step for fear of radicalising its large immigrant Algerian

To underline their displeasure, the Algerian authorities have arrested a senior leader of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) 48 hours after the publication of interviews with him in two French newspapers.

Abdelkader Hachani, ranking third in the FIS hierarchy, had been freed in July after five years in jail, a move which seemed to signal the willingness of the regime to hold talks with the rebels. With the two top figures in the party already imprisoned, it was Mr Hachani who led the FIS to an overwhelming victory in the first round of general elections in late 1991. Their subsequent cancellation detonated the war which has continued, ever bloodier, to this day.

### Net snared US sailor in 'gay sacking' row

An allegedly gay sailor is chal- Internet. The biographical pro-Navy and a major Internet ser-

brings together the fear of many ity on the Internet and current concerns about sex and discipline in the US military, but it also calls into question the effectiveness of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military introduced by President Clinton soon after he took office in 1993.

Under that provision, gays were able to serve in the US armed forces legally for the first time and officers were not permitted to ask them about their

sexuality. The compromise – strongly criticised by gay campaigners at the time - was that gays should not be open about their homosexuality. Mr McVeigh denies that he violated this code and claims that the Navy discovered that he was gay only from reading his subscriber profile on the

lenging his discharge from the file, compiled voluntarily by US Navy, claiming that the subscribers to the dominant Internet service provider in the vice provider breached his right US, America Online (AOL) may be viewed by other users. The case of Senior Petty Mr McVeigh says that he did Officer Timothy McVeigh compile a profile - in fact, he says, he compiled five of them. only one of which mentioned

the word "gay". In a US television interview vesterday, he claimed that the Navy had obtained the information by calling AOL to verify his service record. The investigator was referred to the biographical profile which contained the word "gay". The Navy will not confirm this, but has confirmed the reason for Mr McVeigh's discharge.

Mr McVeigh, who is considering legal action, is due to leave at the end of the week with an honourable discharge. This qualifies him for veteran's medical benefits and an involuntary severance payment, but no pension. A Pentagon spokesman said that there were no plans to review Mr McVeigh's discharge. Mary Dejevsky,

Washington

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**IND** 16

### Red Indian raider lights a fire under the Marlboro Man

American consumers are attempted by RJR. All the sistently over several years to suckers for anything with "pure" on the label if they think it spells healthy. But would they really fall for the same trick with cigarettes? You bet, says David Usbome.

The Mariboro Man may be under siege in the courts and in Washington, but there is an unlikely bright spot for the beleaguered American tobacco industry. It is the growing market for so-called all-natural. no-additive cigarettes.

This unlikely path into the nation's lungs has been blazed by a fringe New Mexico brand called "Natural American Spirit". While puny in national sales terms, its chemical-free cigarettes have become de rigueur for the cool-conscious young. from models to members of the scruff-rock set.

Sold in soft-packs with American Indian imagery, including an Indian chief with feathered head-dress drawing on a pipe. "American Spirit" are burned by the likes of Hollywood star John Cusack and model-turned film actor, Mark Wahlberg. Sales have been growing at up to 95 per cent a year.

And now the big boys are taking notice. In a move that riveted the whole of the industry, R.J. Reynolds last year reinvented their Winston eigarettes by reducing their content to tobacco only (leaving aside the sodium-soaked paper). Philip Morris may soon follow suit.

Accompanying the new Winstons has been an advertising campaign larger and more expensive than any previously

spots carry variations of the same basic message: real people prefer real eigarettes. "No Bull," the billboards scream. Other tag lines have included, "I get enough bull at work. I don't need to smoke it".

The bull, by the way, are the some 599 different cigarette additives that the manufacturers have recently been forced by the courts for the first time to make public. They range from flavourings like cinnamon. chocolate and liquorice to more noxious-sounding substances like ammonia and freon.

The early signs are that the ploy is working for R.J. Reynolds. After losing market-share con-

#### **BUT HOW DO** THEY TASTE?

On the pleasure-meter, the American Spirit regular filter cigarette does fine. This is a cigarette with a definite bouquet of, well, tobacco. Missing is the slight sweet tinge found at the tongue tip after a Marlboro regular. No liquorice or cocoa in this smoke.

The American Spirit burns a little differently. It may be fractionally harder to draw on than a Mariboro and leave it burning on the ashtray and the ash grows longer and longer without ever dropping off.

Does this smoker feel a rush of health-conscious righteousness from taking a smoke that advertises itself as all- natural? Not quite. So far there is no sign of my winter-long cough abating.

Mariboro, Winston is gaining ground again. In the first quarter that the new Winstons were available, their market share rose from 5.4 to 5.8 per cent.

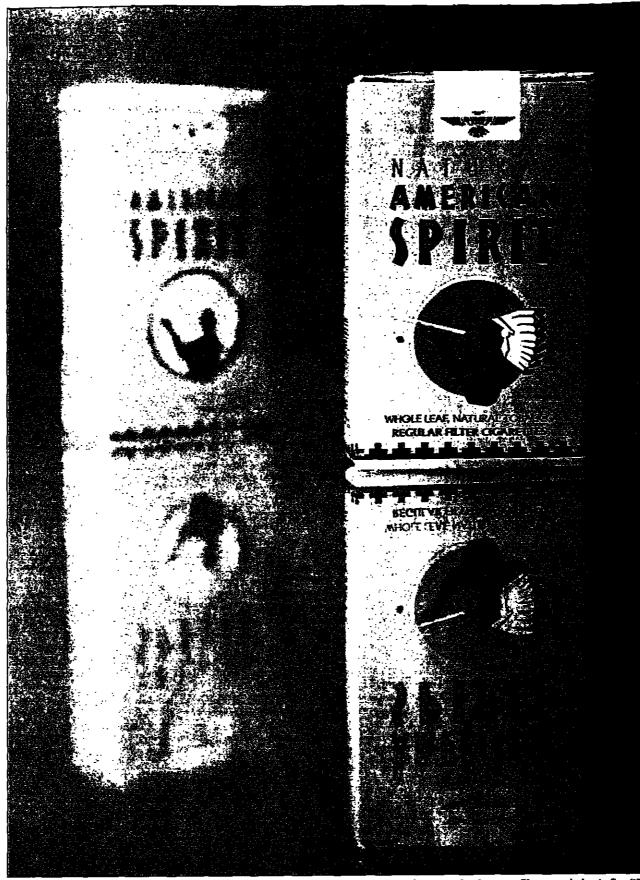
Unsurprisingly, foes of tobacco are alarmed. A coalition of health groups, including the Heart and Lung Association, has even petitioned the goverament to force Winston to drop its no-bull campaign.

You do have to be concerned," commented Martin Feldman, a tobacco analyst at Smith Barney in New York that has been tracking the sales recovery of Winston. "The public has to be aware that this product is no healthier than an ordinary American blend cigarette with all the additives."

Feldman underlines that the statistics on mortality rates among smokers are no different between the UK and the US. And yet most smokers in Britain, if they are buying mainstream brands like Silk Cut, are already getting a Virginia blend more or less devoid of additives.

In fact, neither RJR nor American Spirit make explicit health claims about their all-tobacco eigarettes. But the public may still be being duped. A favourite retail outlet for American Spirit cigarettes, for instance, is health food chains whose very existence is premised on healthier consumption.

In Barclay-Rex, a swank tobacconist on New York's Lexington Avenue, a customer is pondering trying them for the first time. "Those other brands. they have all the chemicals and they just kill you slowly," offers Candido, the man behind the counter. He adds: "Of course. these will kill you slowly too, but



Leader of the packs: American Spirit has forced bigger brands to rethink their marketing

Photograph: Justin Sutcliffe day is 13 per cent.

### Old habits die hard for young

When they look at their own domestic market, US cigarette manufacturers see bad news and good. Health advocates see good and bad.

Overall, the proportion of adult smokers in the US has fallen from 37.2 per cent in 1974 to 25.5 per cent in 1994. Children, by contrast, are smoking more and more.

According to the Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids, based in Washington, the incidence of smoking is rising among almost all groups of American children. Only African-American girls are smoking a little less.

Smoking among high school seniors, for example, is now at 36.9 per cent - a 19-year high. Since 1991, meanwhile, smoking has increased by 35 per cent among 13-year-old students and 43 per cent among 15-year-olds.

The picture is most striking for African-American boys. The numbers smoking in this group has increased from 14.1 per cent in 1991 to 27.8 per cent in 1995.

esss

Rate Isually abo

School-goers are not the ones smoking American Spirit.
They overwhelmingly (about 86 per cent of child-smokers) prefer Mariboro, Camel or Newport - the brands that benefit from the heaviest advertising. Cigarette companies are spending some \$13m every day on promoting their brands.

In ethnic terms, the biggest smokers in the US are American Indians and Alaskan natives, where 36.2 per cent of adults are smokers.

Next are African-American adults at 25.8 per cent. The death rate among American In-dians from smoking-related diseases is twice that for Americans as a whole.

One note of comparison with Britain: while in 1988, 8 per cent of British children aged 11 to 15 smoked, the proportion to-

VIRGINIA IRONSIDI

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### INDEPENDENT COMPETITION YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A WORK OF ART

The Independent and The Independent on Sunday have joined forces with ART98, Britain's largest contemporary art exhibition, to offer readers the opportunity to win one of two works of art. To enter simply ring the number below leaving your answer to the question and completing the tie-breaker.

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Art 98 Britain's biggest contemporary art fair celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. On sale to the public will be works by young British artists including Damien Hirst, Jake and Dinos Chapman. Sarah Lucas and Mona Hatoum who were all featured in the notorious Sensation exhibition at the Royal Academy last year. There will be over 80 leading galleries taking part and special features this year include Art98Futures, a selling exhibition of work by recent graduates as well as 'Who Owns Video', on commissioning, collecting and selling video art.

ART98 London Contemporary Art Fair, Business Design Centre, Islington Green, London N1 Tel: 0121 767 4818

Opening Hours: Wednesday 21-Sunday 25 January 1998 10am-6.00pm Wed/Thurs, 10am - 7pm Fri/Sat 10am-4.30pm Sun Ticket prices: £7.50, concessions £5.00 or £10.00 on the door



#### Hirschl Contemporary Art

four years ago out of a commitment to promote and encouraging young and emerging painters in romien usteplished family of ait designs that not to galola real sense as to how the puntings we look in a home environment. Hirson Contemporary Art also offers an art consulting service to its private clants. recording work by gallery and non-gallery

Stite 3.7 Sheffield Terrate London WHING.

Karl Ghattas Shiva Nataraja ii i loil on canvas

#### Karl Ghattas

Karl Ghattas is a self-taught artist who has had enormous success since giving up a lucrative career as an Ear Nose and Throat surgeon ten years ago, and a position as a Philosophy lecturer at the London School of Economics eight years ago. He has had a one-man exhibition in London, New York and Paris. He is currently exhibiting at the Courtauld Institute in their biennial exhibition and his work is in private collections around the world. The Ferens Ant Gallery in Hull, and the Metropolitan Museum in New York have recently acquired his work for their permanent collection. He is unique in his field, not because he is self-taught, but because of what he brings to the discipline, namely a surgeon's experience and awareness of the human anatomy, and the knowledge and ideas of a philosopher Indeed, he must be the only artist in the world to have lectured at university level on and philosophy and medicine. The image of 'Shiva Nataraja' (as pictured here) concerns itself with the beginning of existence and the creation of desire. The composition is based on the dance of creation by the Hindu God, Shiva. In that dance, Shiva rhythmically beats out the creation of the world through a series of wave-like rippies, creating a world of desires. Shiva Natarja is depicted as an explosive force of concentric, rippling flame circles. which emanate from the centre, creating the world and bringing existence into being.

### Jill George Gallery

he Gallery was established within the heart of The Gard y 1995 English 1974 and shoved to Special Incation in 1987, The Calledy Chang orasari. Iname to Jil George in 1991. (Il George joined th company in 1975, becoming circular in 1980 and iscle lowner in 1986. The Gallery represents paintings drawings, watercolours, monophints an the recent graduate. There is an exhibition ne weeks and a palection of originals and brints i staray, evallable, to continue the interest in locally unista, triere is an exhibition every eighteer months of recent graduates. Both abstract and Sgutative work is represented

he Galery organises commissions on behalf the artists and works closely with architects and interior designers and provides the ancillary services from the selection to the installation

38 Lexington Street, Schol London W1R 3HP Peli 017, 439 737

Martyn Brewster สดดออกโลย 23" x 23" (imaga size) 35" x 35" (paper size)

#### Martyn Brewster

produced during a four-week residency at

Lowick in Cumbria. Martyn's work is: generally influenced by nature and the landscape and this residency gives him the ideal opportunity to develop ideas whilst surrounded by the peace and beauty of painting on paper, but produced by a print making technique, in his case, screen printing. He plays with colour directly onto the screen and often the brush or palette maries are visible. A monoprint is a unique print, i.e there is no adition hence it is more All the work is signed by the artist and the title and number is merely a reference. Martyn Brewster was born in 1952 in Oxford and studied at St Albans College of Art and Brighton College of Art graduating in 1975, Martyn has exhibited extensively in this country and abroad and since 1985 has exhibited exclusively with Jili George Gallery in London: He now lives and works in Dorset In 1997 a book of Martyn's work , from 1978, was published to coincide with a retrospective exhibition at the Russell Cotes Art Gallery and Museum in Bournemouth. Martyn's next solo exhibition at Jill George is in June 1998. Since Martyn has been exhibiting exclusively with Jili George Gallery in London, he has had six highly successful solo shows of his originals as well as equally successful solo shows of his monoprints, Martyn is an exceptionally telepted antist who has already received much acclaim,

## 19/FEATURES



Tuck in: Sally Ann Voak, left, Professor Anne de Looy

Photograph:

### Yesss! The diet for your wildest dreams

Diets are usually about self-mortification. Here's one that's an exercise in self-gratification and, says Clare Gamer, it helps to like chocolate.

Two large, sickly desserts arrived at our table: one brandy snap basket containing malted ice cream, and a sticky toffee pudding topped with a dollop of vanilla ice cream. This in itself was cause for alarm - the two women opposite claimed to have discovered the secret of slimming - but yet more bizarre was that they were. apparently, on their starters.

Professor Anne de Looy and Sally Ann Voak, weighing in at a collective 17st 2lb, make an unlikely alliance. The former is Britain's first professor of dietetics at Queen Margaret College, in Edinburgh, and the latter is slimming editor for The Sun. But together they have devised "System S" a diet programme in which "S" stands for science, not starvation, self-denial or sorry you can't eat that Mars bar. Equally, it could stand for "sugary foods".

It is founded on the principle that we eat too much fat and not enough carbohydrate and the motto of System S is "carbo first" (taken to its logical limits, this means pud be-

fore main). Their argument goes that since there are limits to how much bread, pasta and rice we can consume in the West, we must up our complex carbohydrate intake with a simple one: sucrose. Consequently, cravings for fatty foods subside.

"As we are surrounded by sucrose-containing foods it makes sense to use them to our advantage," says the introduction to System S: the scientific breakthrough for lasting weight loss. The ensuing two pages of trademarked "Carb Boosters" reads like a list of no-go areas.

Golden syrup, marshmallows, Arctic roll, liquorice allsorts, cola drinks or other sweet fizzy drinks, meringue nest, mini Mars bar, ice cream. After Eight Mints ... without these items the diet just won't work. And don't forget your statutory daily glass of wine or beer - or sugary non-alcoholic drink if you prefer.

Any diet book which maintains "You can eat out and enjoy a delicious dessert, serve up lavish, tempting meals when entertaining friends and join in when the rest of the family tuck into sweet puddings" is bound to elicit an extreme response of approval or disgust.

Personally, I liked Anne and Sally before I'd even met them. Any diet which says I can "live a normal life while slimming" has potential and any

diet which says I must cat followed "System S" - a simichocolate eclairs, I can live

"It's anti-intuitive and too good to be true." said Professor de Looy, tucking into her sticky toffee whatnot. "But we need our puddings." In these no fat/low fat days, such an affirmation goes against the grain, but I'm prepared to listen. Professor de Looy objects to modern usage of the word "diet". "Diet actually means the foods that you choose. Sally and I are not on slimming diets but we're choosing foods in the way of System S.

Professor de Looy and her team at the Centre for Nutrition and Food Research in the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition at Queen Margaret College, have given "System S" a gold star for nutrition. In 1996 they tried it out on 60 volunteers in a controlled 12-week study in the village of Fatfield, Type and Wear.

As a control group, 30 of the volunteers followed a traditional healthy, low-calorie, lowfat, high carbohydrate diet plan which was devised in 1991 and has proved successful both for those who wish to lose weight and for those who want to maintain their weight loss. Ms Voak's well-known "Fatfield Diet" is now recommended by doctors and

nutritionists. The remaining volunteers

lar daily menu plan, but with the addition of two or three Carb Boosters every day. After a couple of weeks, the "System S" dieters had lost more weight than their fellow slimmers. (The average weight loss on System S is one pound a week.) Fifteen months on, they are still losing or main-

taining their weight and "bave learnt to love food and eating and no longer fear that they could at any time blow their chances of losing weight successfully by giving in to temptation". People are reluctant to sign

up to "System S". They fear that a licence to eat sugary foods will mean their consumption spirals out of control. In some cases, indeed, it did. "If I have one chocolate biscuit, I'll eat the whole pack," said one volunteer, explaining why the diet didn't work for her. However, with the help of "attitude exercises", such as nibbling a Carb Booster in bed while visualising yourself looking slim and shapely at a party, most volunteers overcame the initial reluctance without

It worked in the case of the chocolate factory workers who volunteered as guinea pigs. They are given free sweets and chocolates every day. You can imagine the guilt and problems," said Ms Voak, "Once

swinging to the other extreme.

not only lost weight but they adopted it over Christmas, which is remarkable to me."

Ms Voak and Professor de Looy insist their diet is not "faddish". It is, they say, a "lifestyle" - and not a bad one at that, I thought, as they or-" dered a bottle of Pinot Blanc D'Alsace. As for their second course, smoked salmon was out because it didn't contain carbohydrate, as was the mussels dish and the tomato, goat's cheese and wild rocket salad, for the same reason. The only dish which qualified was the leek and potato soup.

While Professor de Looy was big on the scientific validity of "System S". Ms Voak stressed the sensual. "The important thing is that you really enjoy the sensuality of food," she said, adding that she had enjoyed the "naughty phallic shape" of her pudding. "It's the next best think to sex - preferably two at the same time." The prot perked up: "Oh Sally, what did you have in mind?" Another experiment, perhaps.

"System S" is based on that well-known law of desire. We all know that as soon as a food is labelled as forbidden it becomes infinitely more enticing and inviting. The problem lies in our perception of sugary foods as "treats". Ms Voak has a New Year's

they went on 'System S' they another diet with "treats" in it. But is that not precisely

what she has just done with her concept of Carb Boosters? "You've got to consciously work the right way before subconsciously," she replied, reaching for the right metaphor. "It's like when you practise breathing classes before having a baby. When it comes to the right time you will be able to do it naturally." Susie Orbach, author of Fat

is a Feminist Issue, applauded the diet's attempt to normalise our relationship with food. "Of course any approach to food that doesn't categorise certain foods as good and bad per se I would welcome, but the crucial issue is what interferes with our own methods of satisfaction and hunger and what are the psychological reasons why we turn to food.

"Unless we've questioned those we'll always be looking for the next scheme to avoid food or manage it, rather than living in a reasonable relationship with it. The real challenge is to figure out what we want when we go to bed. Is it After Eights or is it nothing?

"Clare's is much more fun," commented a food-combining colleague, as I counted out my Jelly Tots (essential Carb Booster, you understand) at my desk. Indeed it is. But, I ask myresolution never to write self, does it work?

I know which I want.

### If today is Sunday, then you must be my wife

Once upon a time marriage provided a certain blueprint for life together, and all you need do was abide by it. But newly-wed Conservative leader William Hague this week gave a new twist to puptial yows, announcing on Talk Radio that he and his wife Ffion had scheduled an agenda of private time together: Sundays, an evening a week, and one whole weekend a month.

Leaving aside the questions this begs about modern relationships and work commitments, is that really enough "quality time" on which to base a lifelong union? My first reaction was that it isn't, but then I'm biased. Working from home while my husband Joff looks after the house and kids, we're used to seeing an awful lot of each other. Despite all the cliches about living in each other's pockets, absence making the heart grow fonder and needing to keep a certain spice in one's relationship. I think we're as happy together as we could be.

Well, yes, we do sometimes get on each other's nerves. Our relationship thrives on low-grade bickering, but that's often part of family life. The advantage we have over other, more time-strapped couples, is that things rarely fester. One rants and raves, the other takes the mick, and in five minutes it's forgotten. But maybe we're just weird.

Not so, says Geoff, a friend who has run a successful business at home with his wife for the last 14 years. "Working together has been the salvation of our relationship. A mutual interest provides a great bond and a bedrock for family life, and we're very in tune with each other."

Certainly time together allows you to evolve a very intuitive way of dealing with each other, confirms Relate counsellor and agony aunt Julia Cole, and gives you more chance to discuss issues that are important to you. But she warns against meshing together so completely that you lose all sense of your own identity: "In extreme cases clinging together may indicate that you don't have much confidence in the relationship, and feel it is vulnerable."

Not that busy couples are doomed to divorce. Bernadette Matus, chair of the National Childbirth Trust. lecturer in marketing at Brighton University, and freelance consultant and trainer, only really sees her husband Tad, head of information for East Sussex health author-



The Hagues opt for quality, not quantity

ty, on Sundays. But if anything, she thinks their 19-year relationship has improved.

"I have a greater sense of identity, and there's a much greater equality between us. We've become real partners and have a new respect for each other. It helps that we have a lot in common, but we don't bicker much: there's no time and we've got better things to think about."

It may seem dispiriting that modern couples need to schedule time together, but it's undoubtedly wise, says Cole: newly-weds are often taken over by the romantic idea that somehow their love will naturally make time for each other. Couples should ring-fence time together, but they also need to decide what they'll do if the office phones or an urgent fax comes. The Hagues have made the first step. but they'll have to be quite careful about the quality of that time." And if babies arrive on the scene? Then what?

Emma Haughton

#### **DILEMMAS**

### My neighbour is so noisy, I am thinking of moving house



#### VIRGINIA RONSIDE

Kath is dreading the iummer because an aggressive neighbour plays her radio loudly n the garden most afternoons. Kath dare not ask her to turn iown the noise, and is hinking of moving, yet knows the same roblem may happen herever she is. What hould she do?

I'm someone who, unless it's birdsong. a fishwife, a complete stranger just stand the noise of music in other people's gardens. Or, indeed, my own. unless it is firmly plugged into my ear. Gardens are for peace and quiet, not Radio 2. But there is absolutely no point in Kath's moving until she has screwed up her courage and at least asked her neighbour to turn her radio down when she's in the garden. Or, since she's got environmental law on her side, she need only get the signatures of a few neighbours and make a diary of times it plays to justify visits from an officer who may well be able to tell the neighbour to turn her radio off without involving Kath at all.

Tve asked masses of people to turn their music down, and it's astonishing how many will do as you ask. They have no idea they're being a nuisance. It's important to address them face to face; a letter, however polite, looks aggressive to some people, who see it as "official" in some way.

But why Kath can't simply go round and ask her is beyond me. I know how scary it can be, but maybe she could get together with other nonaggressive neighbours and face this creature together. Each individual may be shivering like a little mouse as they stand on the doorstep, but five or six gathering politely to ask this lady to turn her radio down is not against the law, and yet can look as if they mean serious business - simply by their sheer numbers.

My last success was with an extremely aggressive drunk who had fallen into a stupor while playing his radio. As I said "Excuse me!" very loudly and politely over the fence, I was astonished when an upstairs window in an adjoining house was flung up and, in the belting tones of

screamed: "Ov! You!" This woke up the drunken radio-player and before he knew where he was the poor man was trapped in the middle of a twopronged attack, one below from patient, rational old me who addressed the man with great formality and civility, producing lawyer-like reasons for turning the radio off, and one from above, a hysterical tirade of abuse. The finale came when he lurched up and yelled that I couldn't tell him to do anything, it was his garden and he could do what he liked. I replied that. until I could get the law enforced. which I had no intention of doing unless driven to it, as I wish to remain friends, I wasn't telling him, I was begging him. Whereupon the creature in the upstairs window shricked down: "Can you hear what she's saying? She wants to be fucking friends! She's not fucking telling you, she's fucking begging you, you fuck-face!" Between us we silenced him for months, until he was killed in a stabbing incident with a friend to whom he

owed a tenner. Perhaps Kath could enlist the help of someone with more nous than her, while she addresses the environmental health and legal arguments on the one hand, the other could express the emotional side of the issue in more vocal language, good policeman and had policeman style.

A professor has recently claimed to invent a machine that, by sending out silem sound waves, can blor out the sound of neighbourhood radios. Until then, Kath has to send out her own personal sound waves - reasoned conversation and calls to the environmental health office - to shut her neighbour up.

### WHAT READERS SAY

Try asking her to stop We have suffered from a similar plight involving a noisy neighbour who, during spring, summer and autumn for the past two years, has regularly opened the patio doors and turned on either music or a keepfit video. This seems to create ideal acoustic conditions for the sound to bellow into our garden and adjoining property.

I suggest the following possibilities, which I and my partner have tried with varying success: 1. Use an intermediary: speak to the neighbour's partner or a mutual friend or acquaintance. The comments can be put in humorous terms - "change the channel", or

"turn it down". I have spoken to the neighbour's child (in exasperation one Saturday morning): "please ask if they can turn it down". It worked immed-

2. Open your window and play The Archers full blast. Provides immediate relief - but you lose the moral high ground. Gillian Adams

Terbury, Gloucestershire

Approach the authorities I can sympathise a lot with Kath. I would advise her to keep a diary of disturbances when the noise again

becomes a regular occurrence. She should note the date, "tune on", "tune off", a description of the noise and details of how it disturbs her. After two to three weeks she should review her diary and if she still feels aggrieved by the noise she should approach the Environmental Health officers, who investigate allegations of noise nuisance.

This may lead to the EHO serving a notice on the perpetrator of the noise under section 80 of the Environments Protection Act 1990.

I note that Kath describes the perpetrator as "very aggressive" and she should warn the EHO of this. With any luck, if the neighbour is as had as Kath says, she will already be known by the council for some reason. They may have received other complaints about noise. for example. (That would be lucky.)

If a notice is served, it will require the perpetrator to cease causing the nuisance. Contravention of the notice (which would have to be wit-

number of punitive measures including seizure of the offending equipment, and prosecution. Fines imposed by the magistrate's court can be up to £5,000 per offence from domestic premises.

nessed by the EHO) can lead to a

If Kath moved, she might find herself in a worse situation. She should be objective, and not get obsessed. It could be that she is too sensitive to noise, and completely neurotic, but she should definitely contact an EHO for advice.

Anne B London N7

> Be more neighbourly I wonder what sort of neighbourhood Kath lives in.

Is it one where everyone "keeps themselves to themselves"? Kath's radio-playing neighbour may be irritating other people, too, but maybe it's the sort of area where no one feels it's their "place" to say so.

Difficulties with neighbours are often exacerbated by lack of contact. In our inner city neighbourhood people make it their business to try to make a connection with all the Newtown, Powys

folks living around them, so that problems have solutions. If people feel part of a larger community they are less likely to cause trouble in it.

Rather than moving away, try moving towards your neighbour and your neighbourhood. As you rightly point out, Kath, it could happen wherever you are. Good communication and kindliness are often a basis from which day-to-day living issues within any community can be tackled and resolved. Gillian Booth (Ms) Bristol

Give her a Walkman

For less than £30 Kath could buy a Walkman with radio. She could then send it anonymously to her noisy neighbour under the pretext that the latter has been fortunate enough to win it in an obscure, random prize draw. With any luck Kath's neighbour will use the Walkman instead of her normal radio and peace will reign at last. Cheaper than moving house, and no messy, stressful confrontation involved.

#### NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

both have concern for our children. aged four and five.

My husband has suggested that Dinah.

After a really terrible Christmas after the divorce, we should stay together, my husband and I have together for their sake, and lead decided to divorce. However, we separate lives in the same house. Do you think this would work - and what would the children feel?

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora.

Send your comments and sug-Department, 'The Independent', please let me know,

1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf. London E14 5DL (fax: 0171-293 2182). by Tuesday morning.

And if you have a dilemma of your gestions to me at the Features own that you would like to share,

## 20/ARCHITECTURE





Fashion statements: above left, shop-till-you-drop glamour in the Donna Karan shop; even the clunky Portland stone surfaces look slinky. Streetwise DKNY, above right, brings skyscraper heights, bathed in light, to staid Bond Street

### Donna Karan wanted someone to make her look good

One or the world's most prestigious fashion design awards has been given not to a fashion designer but to an architect. Makes sense, says Nonie Niesewand.

First shrinks. Then holistic healers and personal trainers. Now architects are the indispensable designer accessory for intensely competitive fashion designers. By getting an architect to design their shops they give themselves the edge world-wide. Shops are no longer fitted. They are kitted out with a made to measure look by an equally famous household name of an architect who wears their label (at least, to pick up the brief).

Take a small corner of the global gold card shopping. In New Bond Street, every fashionable shop front and interior is designed to match the clothes within. Sporty NYPD Blue style at DKNY opposite the grown -up black and cream Donna Karan collections Ishop (both designed by Peter Marino); minimalist, pared and pale Portland stone at Jigsaw by John Pawson, who also designed the Calvin Klein flagship store in Madison Avenue in York stone; elegant rationalism from David Chipperfield at Joseph; faux animaux as the leopard changes its spots at Moschino near the Westbury Hotel by Hosker More and Kent; Nicole Farhi sleekly tailored and set

in stone and concrete by Rashid Din.

makeovers as the Monopoly Board before chitect for the project, Thierry Despoint. own shop in London, it was Peter Marino hotels replace the houses. Yet three more fashion stores will open in New Bond Street began in America. Peter Marino, the inthis year, all of them planned by American architects. In February, Vuitton gets catalyst. He has designed stores for Valentia facelift from the ubiquitous Mr Marino; no, Christian Dior, Giorgio Armani, Louis in the autumn, Gucci will strut its new stuff from Bill Sofield and in November fusty old tartanned-out Ralph Lauren will move end of last year, he was awarded the Masinto the massive 45,000 square feet flagship HQ at Number one New Bond Street where the Nat West used to stand. Claiming that "there's an incredible energy in London right now which makes it such a natural place to create our largest international store", Ralph Lauren announced that he will be importing into It's as congested with architectural energetic old London an American ar-

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42 UK Showrooms

Like all shopping dramas, the movement ternationally acclaimed architect, was the Vuitton, Calvin Klein, Chanel, Yves Saint Laurent, Fendi and Donna Karan. At the ters of Design award from the Fashion Group International at the 14th annual presentation, together with citations for John

en the award to an architect. To work for so many egos, architect Peter Marino has become adept at spotting their idiosyncratic style. He is a genius at conveying in hard materials glamour, techno-chic, sexiness and snob appeal. All in and describes his architecture as being about

Galliano of Dior and Karl Lagerfeld of

Chanel. It's the first time fashion has giv-

materials and textures, touch and colour. From his days in the Factory with Andy Warhol making cult movies and changing the wallpaper, he set up his design practice in 1978 for what his FGI fashion citation calls "a coterie of international trend-setters and taste arbiters". He employs 80 architects and 20 designers in five offices, including one in London. When he's not designing the new Barneys stores in New York, LA, Chicago and Tokyo, he's restoring historic landmark buildings such

public library. When Donna Karan launched DKNY's no goes so far as to call it "touchy feely".

who placed a chunk of New York precinct straight into the very traditional New Bond Street. His aim was to bring a kind of energy, a feeling of freedom and being on the move into that claustrophobic lineup of shops. The only thing between the broadwalk and the back of the shop, with its backlit projection of yellow NY cabs, is glass. Its tall narrow glass-fronted facade stretches four storeys tall under a roller coaster glass roof. So the shop is bathed in daylight and, by night, a silvery white light. The new kid on the block is very American with stacked screens beaming out American TV. There's a selzer-styled bar for espresso drinkers, and enough free floor-

space to roller-blade around. On the other side of New Bond Street is his King Midas approach in Portland concrete and stone, marble and glass, steel stone with a solid gold wall from atrium to and gilt. Marino himself hates style labels basement as a background to the Donna Karan collections. You would never know that the same architect had designed the two stores. It's the difference between haute

countre and ready-to-wear. The skill is to interpret the look and keep evolving. Those temples to consumerism in marble and glass under lofty coffered ceilings are now considered very Eighties. Just as the Constance Spry flowers and Colefax & Fowler chintzes with which Sir Hardy Amies decorated his shop so long ago was considered classic Fifties. The new look for shop design is more energetic, less precious, as St Patrick's Cathedral or the New York certainly plainly tailored and having an intrinsic quality in the materials. Peter Mari-

Fashion designers' pursuit of what is now and of the moment can be profitable for architects. Take the Italian duo of Dolce & Gabbana whose company turns over £400m a year and whose label is worn by every Hollywood celebrity. They did their own Milan stores as a mixture of red velvet, patchwork, and gilded throne chairs against white-walled sobriety. But that red and gold Sicilian look which was very Visconti is about to change. They have asked British architect David Chipperfield to design their stores this year.

Will

URTHS.

Floors and wall surfaces won't change. He's more interested in finding way of displaying the clothes to highlight the internal structuring that hides behind their floaty lightness. All o which is a bit like his own architecture which has more complicated depths than its clean-cut good looks would suggest. Catch his coolly modern shop design at Joseph's menswear shop in Sloane Avenue and then take a look at British architect Sophie Hicks' makeover of the Paul Smith shop nearby.

Now even chain stores are giving themselves a designer label. Selfridges will reveal this November their re-design by the French interior designer and architect, Christian Liagre, His elegant French Modern Hotel Montalembert has long been the sanatorium for exhausted supermodels and fashion editors during the Paris fashion shows. His dark wood furniture with a hint of the old colonial about it, on poised little feet and upholstered in textured neutral naturals needs a whole collection to be edited around it.

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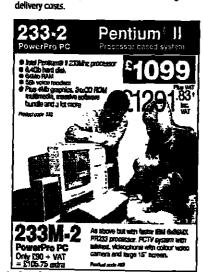
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Is this a cinema that I see before me? Get thee to a lottery!

They've built a new picture house in Stratford-upon-Avon. It is beautiful, but we may not see its like again, says Nonie Niesewand.

When French TV sent a team to film British architectural grands projets just before Christmas they must have been astonished to be shown this version of the Cinema Paradiso in Stratford-upon-Avon. The French crew had been poised to zone in on the Dome. Somerset House and such, But President of RIBA, David Rock, who is on the Arts Council to appraise all the schemes coming in for funding, insists that this make-over and extension of a Twenties garage by the London-based architects Panter Hudspith is a good example

'I got it across to them that in England the grand projet is lottery funding spread about in lots of little bits all over the UK. It is the people's money; many small projects makes a great difference to society."

of what it's all about.

Locals with backing from Councillor Cyril Bennis petitioned for a downtown cinema the only one in Stratford closed years ago. Donations kicked off with £25. Once City Screens took over the project it got Arts Council funding of



Not your average Odeon: the terrace bar at the Stratford Picture House

£690,000 for the building, which cost just under a million. It took two years from summer 1995.

By supporting the projection room from the side walls of the cinema rather than the zinc roof they avoided fire protecting the whole roof and saved money. Lousy access, from the back door only, was overcome by turning the courtyard into parking for the disabled and putting the foyer on the first floor, reached by stairs with walking stick stair-rails and a talking lift, its Portuguese accent

denoting its country of origin. The bar at roof level opens out on to a terrace. Fine details, from the crazy modern chandeliers, metalwork fish door tories, to a well-designed kiosk the lottery into different new

for popcorn and peanuts, is tesown practice first.

Council lottery-funded buildings to be completed it may be a benchmark. The good thing about the lottery spreading money around the country and maintaining small firms of builders and architects and engineers and surveyors is that it has produced buildings for the community that go beyond the bare minimum.

The bad news for architects is the lottery cut-back. The Government White Paper which comes before Parliament this month proposes to reallohandles on the children's lava- cate some of the money from

bodies which will administer it. timony to the architects' policy Arts, Heritage, Sport, Millenof trying everything out in their nium and Charities will all lose one fifth of their lottery mon-As one of the first Arts ey when a sixth, the New Opportunities fund, channels money into schools and ; bospitals.

This sounds great but it could be used to fund teachers ... learning IT and to set up fitness clubs around the country. "The effect on building will be greater than the Government would: have you believe," says David.

'How do they do that?' an exhibition about the making of the Stratford-upon-Avon Picture House, at RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London WI, until

and very near to Nicosia. As

ambassador to Libya, which

was one of the places he came

to love, between 1974 and 1976

he had enough leisure to allow

him - and his family - to pick

up Roman coins from lonely

shores. While there he knew

diplomats from every geo-

graphical and ideological clime

and was well informed about

every "terrorist organisation".

time, this was a testing

experience, for Murray was

only frustrated when he was

inactive. Sweden provided

tests of a different kind. He had

to persuade the Swedes that

for Thatcher's Britain - if not

for all Britons - the Falkland

Islands, miles away, were not

Given the fact that Murray

peripheral.

In retrospect, as at the

Yet he felt perfectly secure.

## 21/OBITUARIES

## **Georgy Sviridov**

Georgy Yuri Vasilyevich Sviridoy, pianist and composer: born Fatezh. Russia 16 December 1915: married 1953 Elza Gust Klazer (one son); died Moscow 5 January 1998.

The outline of Georgy Sviridov's prize-spangled career as a Soviet composer might suggest that he was a party hack, one of the cogs in the Communist wheel. As usual in such matters, the truth is less black and white: Sviridov managed simultaneously to write the music he felt was important and to deliver his political masters the socialistrealist monuments they wanted.

He was born in Fatezh, in the southern-Russian region of Kursk. After cutting his teeth in the Children's Music School in Kursk, he moved to Leningrad where he took lessons with Mikhail Yudin at the Central Music College (1932-36). He then studied composition with Dmitry Shostakovich at the Leningrad Conservatory, graduating in 1941 (the year he also finished his of his fellow pupils, Sviridov's time with Shostakovich marked his own music profoundly.

In his first maturity Sviridov composed with genuine vigour. although not all his early works survived the war. Two piano concertos emerged in 1936 and 1942, a symphony for strings in 1940, a piano sonata in 1944 and two partitas for piano in 1947 (two years after he had begun a career as a concert pianist); two string quartets, a piano trio and quintet date from the mid-₱ 1940s; and there were three musical comedies in 1939, 1942 and to a series of plays (including Othello and Victor Hugo's Ruy Blas) between 1942 and 1952.

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It was after he moved to about the Communist era:

Moscow in 1955 that Sviridov's reputation as an "official" composer was born, with the first of the big oratorios much favoured by the Soviet authorities. The Decembrists (1955) and, especially. Poem to the Memory of Sergei Yesenin (1955-56). Sviridov was to write several of these distended scores; one of them, the Orasorio Pathétique (1959), was calculated to appeal to the apparatchiks and it duly gained him a Lenin Prize in 1960, in which year he also dutifully composed

Sviridov collected the titles necessary for progress in the Soviet hierarchy: he was awarded the Order of Lenin four times; he was a People's Artist of the RFSFR in 1963, a People's Artist of the USSR in 1970, and a Hero of Soviet Labour in 1975. Eventually he ascended to the position of First Secretary of the RFSFR Union of Composers, which he held from 1962 to 1974. But he was much more than

the Poem about Lenin.

the political opportunist that this list suggests. The best of his music is uncommonly beautiful. military service). As with many and deserves a long life - and regular hearings outside Russia. The warm, sincere heart of Sviridov emerged when he was dealing with subjects that evoked an idealistic image of "Mother Russia", whose past glories, real or otherwise, had a deep (and pre-Communist) resonance for him. Indeed, Sviridov's attachment to Russia's Slavic history - an attitude encouraged by the Communists because it served their political purposes - mirrors very closely Furtwängler's German nationalism under the Nazis, and one can ascribe to both men 1952 and the incidental music either moral ambiguity or simple naïvety. Sviridov himself put it plainly enough, in a pas-

Russian music, indeed all Russian art, has for most of its history been closey bound up with the Orthodox outlook and philosophy. That is the tap-root of our culture, its originaliy and individuality. In the course of the last century, that connection was severed. Will it be possible to restore it? Not only the destiny of our culture depends on it, but the very existence of Russians as a nation, with a place and voice in world history. The restoration of this spiritual connec-tion is the most difficult task facing our society. Only by taking this path do I see any future for Russian art.

He expressed these Slavophile sympathies particularly in his choral music, which can be very touching. His Kursk Songs, a far cry from the bombast of the Oratorio Pathetique, are gentle realisations of folk melodies from his native region; the cantata Snow is Falling, to texts by Pasternak (1965), is a model of how to write music of delightful simplicity; and "Reveille is Sounded", a movement from his choral concerto Pushkin's Garland (1978), is one of those achingly lovely pieces that you never forget once you've heard it. No cynic

wrote music so honest. His songs, solo or choral, are likewise highly effective, and he chose his poets carefully, perhans to underline his Slavophile tendencies: as well as Pasternak, he set Lermontov, Pushkin and Blok. But his conservative nationalism did not blind him to other sources: one of his bestknown song-cycles is a series of Burns settings from 1955. The hallmark of his vocal writing is an effortless, direct lyricism that ultimately makes unresolved questions about his political stance roundly irrelevant.

Sviridov's orchestral catalogue is not large, nor is it radical or path-breaking in a way that would draw abnormal attention to it. But it contains some true gems. One year in sage that is at least ambivalent particular - 1964 - produced the Music for Chamber Orchestra,



Sviridov: supping with the devil

fectiously appealing music for a film of Pushkin's The Snowstorm, a minor masterpiece of melodious irony.

grew older, much to the displeasure of Shostakovich, who considered Sviridov one of the most gifted of his pupils and was dismayed to see his talent deployed so intermittently, even lackadaisically. Sviridov was none the less one of the few prominent ex-pupils of Shostakovich who refused to join in the KGB-organised chorus of condemnation in 1979 when Testi-

the Little Triptych and the in- mony, Shostakovich's disputed memoirs, were first published (in the West, of course). Over the past few years the

CD market has begun to catch His output fell away as he up with Sviridov's music - in every case, interestingly enough, in recordings made after the fall of the Soviet Union. The UK label Olympia has now released three dises, including the music to The Snowstonn (broadcasts of which always brought a flurry of enthusiastic letters from listeners) and Pushkin's Garland; Koch Schwann offers the Piano Trio: the first instalment in a survey of the piano music has just

come from Altarus; and Dmitrv Hvorostovsky has recorded the song-cycle that brought Sviridov to London two years

ago to hear it. The tip of the iceberg, perhaps, but it allows the Western listener to form an impression of Sviridov's musical personality - one so attractive that any remaining misgivings about the man fall away. And it is easy for us, comfortable in the relative freedoms of democracy, to forget that it was sometimes necessary to sup with the devil to be able to sup at all.

– Martin Anderson

### Sir Donald Murray

Donald Frederick Murray, diplomat: born London 14 June 1924; Head of Chancery, Saigon 1962; Counsellor, Tehran 1969-72; CMG 1973; ambassador to Libya 1974-76; Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 1977-80; ambassador to Sweden 1980-84; KCVO 1983; Assess Chairman, Civil Service Selection Board 1984-86; **Channel Tunnel Complaints** Commissioner 1987-95; married 1949 Marjorie Culverwell (three sons, one daughter); died Rye, East Sussex 8 January 1998.

Last Shrove Tuesday Sir Donald and Lady Murray moved house from the Ronney marshes, which they loved to Rye, which by the autumn they were learning to love. Murray's stay there was all too short. He had a serious heart attack in October, and although with characteristic determination he made a remarkable recovery he only just saw the New Year in.

Donald Murray was a man of great courage, indomitable will and undauntable spirit, and there were many places in the world which he and his wife Marjorie, whom he had married in 1949, had come to love before they returned to Britain in 1984 from his last diplomatic post, the embassy in Stockholm.

Their map of the world identified among other places Saigon. Tehran and Tripoli. While living in them Murray was keenly aware not only of their troubled present but of the tangle of rich historical and literary associations of each of them. Another place, Vienna, where he was Second Secretary in 1953, had once been at the centre of other people's maps and Murray, while there, enjoyed discussing and arguing with equal fervour about both Metternich and Orson Welles.

The year 1984, when he retired from the Foreign Service. was the year which Orwell forced into history, and Murray would doubtless have been more willing and able to argue with Orwell than with Rye's base year, 1948, he left Worcester College, Oxford, where I was his tutor, and took up his first diplomatic post as Third Secretary in rayaged Warsaw. Thereafter he came to: know both Eastern and Western Europe and, equally basic to his own map. Baltic and

Office, Middle East Forces, in 1956, he was not far from Suez

As First Secretary, Political

Mediterranean.



Murray: undauntable Photograph: Hulton Getty

always drew his own map outside as well as inside Europe, it was valuable for him to have studied international relations at Oxford at a time when the subject was not fashionable, and it was a tribute to his commitment that he secured an unusual distinction in his shortened war degree. He knew both how to work and how to play. One place not for long on his map was pre-Thurn. pre-Santer Luxembourg. I saw it with him when our main preoccupation, an urgent one, was to win enough money at bridge to move on to Maastricht and to Amsterdam where an American friend, blessed with dollars was (theoretically) waiting for

one day be established on every European and anti-European Before Oxford, Murray had already proved all his qualities, serving as a commando with the Royal Marines from 1943 to 1946. He was severely wounded, but he never allowed this to be a handicap. It seemed almost natural when, as Head of Chancery in Saigon in 1962, he took home a Christmas present

for one of his children with

shrapnel in it. The Post Office

us. I had no intimation - nor did

he - of how Maastricht would

had been blown up. It was even more natural that after he left the Foreign Office one of the jobs which he took up was that of Channel Tunnel Complaints Commissioner. The complaints he had to handle related to the digging of the tunnel. One of them came from a model aeroplane flying club whose members complained that what was happening below the ground was destroying their freedom in the air. Murray, who knew everything about sacrifice - he had loved athletics - was not the kind of Commissioner who depended on a sophisticated cost-

In the beginning of his life he had been at school at King's, Canterbury, not far from the place where he died. The counly mattered to him as well as the country or the town. From 1985 to 1990 he was Kent County Chairman of the Soldier's, Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA). In parallel he was a trustee of the World Resource Foundation. In thinking and acting locally and globally his wife and family were his own greatest resource.

benefit analysis.

Asa Briggs

### J. G. Williams

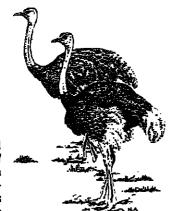
John George Williams, naturalist: born Cardiff 4 April 1913; Curator of Birds. Coryndon Museum, Nairobi 1946-66; married 1945 Dr Philippa Gaffikin (one son three daughters); died Leicester 28 December 1997.

J. G. Williams's first book, A Field Guide to Birds of East and Central Africa, was published in 1963, and, although it only contaiged 50 per cent of the birds to be found in the region, it was a landmark publication.

Finally we had something to take on safari, to keep in the glove compartment of the car. There were only 16 colour plates and 24 in black and white, but it was a start. Later books included more colour plates, and for over 20 years books such as A Field Guide to the National Parks of East Africa

before me! (1968) and A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Africa (1972) beame invaluable travel companions to the many thousands of birdwatchers and ecotourists

that visit Kenya every year. His name, however, will remain immortalised in African ornithology following his discovery of a new species of lark in the Marsabit District of northern Kenya in June 1956,



which was duly named Mirafra williamsi after him. Williams's Bush Lark remains today a shy, skulking and little-known species of the hot, barren lava desert of northern Kenya, a challenge in itself for anyone intent on tracking it down.

Ornithology was Williams's forte and he became a world authority on sunbirds, a family of birds that occur largely in Africa and the islands of the Indian Ocean. He began painting every species of sunbird himself and it was a pity that this monumental work was never published.

John Gordon Williams was born in Cardiff in 1913, the son of a headmaster, John Lyal Williams. His interest in wildlife was inspired by his grandfather

**OSTRICH** (Struthio camelus) The largest living bird; flightless; two toes only on each foot Identification, 7-8ft, 2-21/2m. and white; female and immature greyish-brown. Voice. Usually silent breeding males utter deep booming sound but this is seldom heard.

Illustration by Norman Arlott from Williams's A Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa (1980)

and uncle, both keen amateur naturalists. After education at Monkton House School in Cardiff, he worked for the local firm of Cory Brothers, but maintained his interest in natural history, and in the mid-Thirties was taken on as a taxidermist at the National Museum of Wales.

ond World War, he joined the RAF and saw service in the Middle East, Turkey and North Africa. He met his future wife, Dr Philippa Gaffikin, in Aleppo, Syria, and they were married in Cairo in 1945. During their honeymoon in western Uganda they collected the body of a mountain gorilla; Philippa conducted an autopsy on the animal and John prepared and

mounted it for display at the Coryndon Museum, he himself seen, heard, found or collected Coryndon Museum in Nairobi. and his wife was appointed to ditions in East Africa for the enthusiasts in Kenya. was in charge of child welfare. The results of those expeditions for the Asian and European communities in Kenya. Shortly after Kenya's inde-

pendence in 1963, Williams and I were at Lake Nakuru in Kenya's Rift Valley, watching the hundreds of thousands of flamingos that have made the lake world-famous. With us that day was the American Roger Tory Peterson, who remarked that Lake Nakuru's flamingos were the greatest ornithological spectacle on this earth; and on the way home Williams commented that we really should think towards putting Kenya on the ornithological world map. and encourage all birdwatchers to visit East Africa to see our On the outbreak of the Secmagnificent birding areas. Little did we know then that this was to lead to birdwatching's becoming a major player in

> Kenva's tourism industry. Over the past two decades. birdwatching has become the fastest-growing leisure activity in the world. Williams clearly saw this coming, and after he left his post in 1966, after 20 years as Curator of Birds at the - to hear what other people had

led many ornithological safaris was such an inspiration that he He took up the post of Curator as well as organising and taking became guru and mentor to Los Angeles County Museum. are all documented, in collaboration with Herbert Friedman, in the Los Angeles County Museum's "Contributions in Science" series from 1969 through to the early 1970s. When John and Philippa Williams eventually left Kenya for Britain in the 1970s, East

Africa lost a great naturalist. I first met John Williams in my early twenties when, as a newly recruited officer in the British Colonial Police, my attention was more often than not drawn to the wealth of wildlife that one came across in the course of everyday life in Kenya during the late 1950s and early 1960s. Since I was living in Mombasa, and had no reference books available, copious notes were entered into volumes of notebooks, and with every visit to Nairobi much time was spent with "J.G." in his office at the museum. His knowledge not only of birds, bats and other mammals, but also butterflies. moths, orchids and sea shells was immense, and his keenness

of Birds at the museum in 1946 part in several collecting expermyself and several other young His office was a breath of fresh air during those troubled

times in Kenya's pre- and postindependence years, and a meeting place for local and overseas ornithologists, all seeking J.G.'s advice before setting out on their expeditions. I recall one afternoon in-

tending to spend only a few minutes with him at the museum discussing an influx of Parasitic Weavers that had arrived on the airport grasslands, when he ushered me out of his office and into his Landrover for, as he said, a quick visit to a friend living nearby. Five minutes later. as we drove through the gates of Government House he let me into his secret - tea with the Governor was never to be missed. especially when it offered an opportunity to check on the several pairs of Bronze Sunbirds that were nesting at the time. That tea with the Governor, Malcolm McDonald, lasted almost two hours, and when Williams dropped me outside my office later in the evening my knees trembled in anticipation of the roasting that was to follow.

Don Turner

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE: On 15 November, to Insper and Kate, two boys, Josiah Edwin and Rufus Noah. Coming home today ing home today. Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS.

MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EM 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
Prison Edward, Pattorn, Orean Yveth Cub., attends the London International Boat Show, followed by a reception, at Earls Court, Leaden SW5.
The Prisones Royal, President, Saw, the Children Frunt wise the Tigoton Childmaniang Resource Project, Handborn Business Centre. West Bronwich, and West Bronwich Affrica Foutball Cub. London Silks Budding, West Bronwich West Midlands, and attends the International Financing Review Annual Awards Dumer of the Grosson House London WI. The Duken of Roma annuals a presentation of Digital Televison by the Royal Edwards Society, London WI.2 and attends a winner gown by the Dresden Thus, St. Immes's Palson, London SWI.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalty Mounted Regiment trauses the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11 and, 1st Battalian Weish Guards mounts the Othern's Guards and the Life Guard at Horse Guards and the Life Guards and the Life Guards.

It is the Cavallating the Life Guards.

#### Birthdays Princess Michael of Kent, 53; Mrs Margaret Beckett MP. President of the Board of Trade, 55; Mr Chuck

Berry, singer, 72; Mr Frank Bough, television presenter, 65; Mr Lloyd Bridges, actor, 85; Mr Nigel Briers, cricketer, 43; Sir Neil Cossons, Director. Science Museum, 59; Lord Dacre of Glanton, former Master, Pe-terhouse, Cambridge, 84; Miss Jane Drabble, Director of Education, BBC, 51; Mr Anthony Forbes, former joint senior partner. Cazenove & Co. 60; Dame Mary Hogg QC. High Court judge, 51: Professor David Kendall, Emeritus Professor of Mathematical Statistics. Cambridge University, 80: Mr Melvin J. Lasky, former editor and publisher of Encounter, 78; Professor Peter Maitlis, Professor of Chemistry. Sheffield University, 65; Sir Thomas Morison, High Court judge, 59; Miss Margaret O'Brien, actress, 61; Mr Paul Parker, cricketer, 42; Miss Maria Schell, actress, 72: Lord Sewel Parliamentary Under-Secretary. Scottish Office, 51; Lord Simon of Glaisdale, former Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 87; Sir John Smith QC. Emeritus Professor of Law, Notungham University, 76; Mr John Terraine, writer, 77; Mr Frank Thornton, actor and comedian, 77; Mr Andrew Tyrie MP. 40.

Lectures

Royal Society, London SWI: Professor David Phillips. \*Ozone: protector or polluter?\*\*, 5.30pm.

### LAW REPORT: 15 JANUARY 1998

### Evidence obtained under compulsion could be used

The policy of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry not to use, in criminal proceedings, evidence obtained from company directors under compulsion in the course of an investigation under the Companies Act was based on the privilege against selfincrimination. The decision of the Secretary of State not to extend the policy to proceedings brought under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, which were civil in character, was not, therefore, irrational. Regna v Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, exiparte McCommit. Queen's Bench Érvision (Crown

The court dismissed the application of David Austin Mc-

Office List) (Mr Justice Rimer) 18

the decision of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry not to review an earlier decision to use, in disqualification proceedings brought against him under section 8 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, transcripts of evidence given by him to inspectors appointed under section 432(2) of the Companies Act 1985 to investigate and report on the affairs of Atlantic Computers plc and Atlantic Systems plc, companies of which he had been a director. Manthew Collings (Peters & Peters) for the applicant, A.B.H. Charles and James Eagle (Treasury Solienor) for the Secretary of State.

Mr Justice Rimer said that the case against the applicant was in part based upon the inspectors' report, but the Secretary Cormick for judicial review of of State also relied on the

transcripts of evidence given to the inspectors by the directors.

The admissibility of those transcripts was recognised at common law, but was put beyond doubt by section 434 of the 1985 Act. The applicant contended, however, that because they recorded evidence obtained from him under compulsion of law it was unfair that the Secretary of State should be allowed to use them against him in the proceedings.

The applicant had already attempted unsuccessfully to prevent the use of the transcripts, by a summons issued in the disqualification proceedings. His solicitors had then, in correspondence, invited the Secretary of State to review the decision to use the transcripts. relying on a policy developed following the decision of the European Court of Human

Rights in Saunders v United Kingdom [1977] BCC 872 not to use, against an accused in criminal proceedings, transcripts of evidence given under

compulsion to inspectors.

The issue before the court was whether the Secretary of State's decision was irrational. Saunders v United Kingdom and the new policy with regard to the use of compelled evidence in criminal proceedings was at the heart of the applicant's complaint. It was submitted that the policy applied to disqualification proceedings because they were properly to be characterised as criminal proceedings. Whilst it was admitted that domestic law characterised them as civil proceedings, what mattered was how the European Court of Human Rights would

characterise them in applying

ropean Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. However, in EDC v United

Kingdom (unreported, 26 February 1997) the European Commission on Human Rights had taken the view that disqualification proceedings con-Stituted a dispute over "civil rights and obligations" for the purposes of Article 6.1 of the Convention. That supported the Secretary of State's opinion that the European Court of Human Rights would be likely to regard the present disqualification proceedings as essentially different in character from the criminal proceedings in Saunders v United Kingdom, and entitled her to arrive at the conclusion that the upholding of the privilege against self-incrimination in the law applicable to the Eu-criminal proceedings, which

was the whole basis of the decision in Suunders v United Kingdom, had no directly analogous application to civil disqualification proceedings which would justify the extension of the current policy to them.

The applicant's alternative submission was that even if disqualification proceedings were to be classified as civil proceedings the intended use of the transcripts would be profoundly unfair. Disqualification proceedings were not, however, ordinary civil proceedings. They were brought in the public interest and it was important that they should be effective. Fairness was not to be assessed simply by examining the position through the eyes of one party to the proceedings. The decision of the Secretary of State could not be regarded as irrational.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

### Make it safe, but a menu means choice



**EDITOR: ANDREW MARR.** DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARE LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

In the risk society, the consumer's best friend is her common sense, bolstered by as much relevant information as package labels and restaurant menus can bear about the provenance and handling of the food we buy. No purchase will be entirely safe. Consumers can never be absolved from their responsibility to make up their own minds about cuts of meat, allergenic properties, carcinogens, fat or about the cleanliness and reliability of the cafés and restaurants they patronise. Government - now to take the form of a specialist Food Safety Agency - ought to be an enhancer of choice. Prohibition is easy - but unacceptable and probably unworkable. More difficult is to oversee the food chain in such a way as to allow informed choice to be made in kitchen and restaurant about what to eat and how.

During its nine months in office Labour has been charged with nannyism. The complaint was loudly articulated when Mr Cunningham banned beef on the bone. In fact that decision was justified - pending further elucidation of the link between BSE and analogous human disease. But the Government should look to this new agency as a means of dispelling its Cromwellian, interfering reputation: its task ought not to be the regulation of consumers but the enforcement of standards on the food producing and processing industries in order to support maximum freedom of choice. The new agency has allies. Local au-

thority environmental health officers do sterling work, often on tight budgets; they are the front-line troops in the struggle to keep restaurants up to scratch. It is up to the public to chivvy their local councillors to spend enough to keep this vital service going. Sainsbury and Tesco and the other big food retailers, themselves agents of change and choice in what we eat, exist in a highly competitive market; food safety is in their interest, provided consumers are alert and prepared to vote with

THE JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO THE

WE'RE VERY, VERY SORRY.

CAME OVER US WE ALL

MAKE MISTAKES YOU KNOW

HOW IT IS . AH WELL , NEVER

CAN COMPENSATE FOR OUR

BEHAVIOUR - AND THAT'S

WHAT WE'RE OFFERING ... NO

AMOUNT OF MONEY. HA!HA!

JUST A LITTLE JOKE THERE

TO SHOW WE HAVE SENSE

OF HUMOUR ...

MIND NO AMOUNT OF MONEY

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT

MILLENNIUM DOME CAUSES A STIR .....

their feet. The Food Safety Agency will work best as an impresario, with the publie as its principal actors. Only if we all become more vigilant about our health, more prepared to monitor episodes of food poisoning and investigate their causes will standards rise. Take restaurant meals, in their increasing number such an impressive index of our increasing affluence. How often do consumers even ask to be allowed to inspect a restaurant's kitchens - the very prospect would call some cooks smartly to attention. Butchery need not be the invisible art it has become - when was the last time we peeped behind the plastic curtain at the supermarket?

In this perspective the exact nature of the agency as a public body is probably less important than its philosophy as a collaborator with the public in ensuring high standards of food preparation and presentation. In the risk society, we often show a dismaying tendency to try to slough off the management of risks on

others, especially government and the courts. The Food Safety Agency cannot operate alone. How it is administered does of course matter. It would be have helped, yesterday, if the announcement of its birth had featured health secretary as prominently as agriculture minister. Jack Cunningham did not entirely explain how this agency will avoid the perils of departmentalism, able to present its own reports to ministers yes, but still dependent on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for its annual budget and personnel.

That is important because the creation of the agency ought to be only a part of Labour's policy for food. A major element in that is doing less to achieve more. Like paying less in subsidies for the production of foodstuffs for which no market exists. This spring the British presidency of the European Union ought to be an occasion for loud and insistent criticism of the Common Agricultural Policy, that blight on the European landscape. Everyone knows

the expansion of the EU is fatally compromised by failure to end the CAP; that the EU's budget is impossible as long as it exists. Britain should say that abroad,

At home, this Government should tell farmers the days of production management are over. Instead of worrying about agriculture as an industry - what, presumably, Maff exists to do - the Government should concern itself with the rural environment, in the broadest sense. There are cultures, human as well as plant and animal, which deserve protection. But the means is not blanket subsidies.

How farms are run ought to be less and less the object of state attention. The role of government - and the Food Safety Agency could be an effective instrument - is to erect a series of checkpoints and monitoring stations along the chain, insisting on the highest standards at every point. What, at the end of the process, the consumer chooses to do must be left as

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056: e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### **LETTERS**

#### Welfare victims

Sir: The Prime Minister is right to pursue a radical overhaul of our welfare provisions (reports, 14 January). I was a member of the Social Justice Commission whose report began the process of fresh thinking. The Government needs to be supported in tackling this task.

Far too many people have for too long been locked in dependency of state benefits. The debilitating effect this can have on the dignity of both the adults and children caught in this system is manifest to all who have to deal with the bizarre world of the present benefits culture. The central and sole aim of all reform must be to improve the quality of life of the individuals and families dependent on the current arrangements by rescuing them from this bondage. All other conditions, including financial ones coming from the Treasury, must be subsidiary.

The damage done to generations by the present system cannot be undone overnight. Recovering people's self-worth and confidence in their ability to contribute to their families, to the community and at work requires investment of resources and skill. Above all it requires a change of culture.

If the Government can make significant steps towards this end it will, in terms fitted for the 21st century, have made sense of the principles set out by William Beveridge. It was he who saw welfare as enabling people to return to work. It is in the interests of the whole community that the Prime Minister succeeds.

The Right Rev JOHN-GLADWIN Bishop of Guildford

Sir: The only welfare reforms that will "work" are those based on the deep sense of fairness God has implanted in each human being made in his image. We all know we are born with very different "life chances". The main reason that our political leaders have got to where they are is because they inherited, through no merit of their own, natures and nurtures which have ensured rich pickings for them from the educational, cultural and employment cake. It is nonsense to suppose that they have "earned" their success. Let's stop pretending that if only we all tried a little harder we could all make it in the way they have. Those of us who happen to London SW7

have inherited ambitious stable parents, decent education, middle-class competitive values and the virtual certainty of being employed in good work should view them as national assets (like North Sea oil) from which all should benefit. Those of us who have been given much cannot avoid the obligation to share it generously with others via the fairest system available, namely a level of personal taxation and redistribution that ensures a fair and decent quality of life for all. None of this prevents appropriate welfare reform so that money is wisely spent and gen-

uine waste reduced. Any other system, including compulsory private provision by the well-off, will in the end be seen to be unfair with disastrous consequences for social cohesion.

The Rev CHRIS BRICE Director, Christian Action and Response in Society Diocese of London

#### Islands of peace

Sir: The British Archipelago has been waiting 2,000 years for an institution to balance competing national and regional interests. What better way to celebrate the millennium than the Council of the Isles ("Ireland: there is a solution", 13 January)? But the project must involve

wider regional interests through links to English devolution. I can think of no reason why the new mayor of London should not sit on the council to represent the London Irish, but we can also look to more exciting times when the council looks at wider issues than the Irish question. What about a place for the Manx government to discuss pollution in the Irish sea? What if, say, Stirling, Sunderland and Sligo compete for investment in

a new semi-conductor plant? The difficulties will be tremendous but the opportunities limitless. JON SUTCLIFFE London SW16

Sir: The proposed Council of the Isles needs a site, and where better than that most Irish of English cities, Liverpool? It is mid-way between Dublin, Belfast, Edinburgh, Cardiff and London and has largely overcome its sectarian

DAVID JOHNSTON

#### On the road

Sir: Older drivers contribute to a very small fraction of deaths from road crashes. It was with concern that I read your report (10 January) of a call from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for regular health checks on older drivers.

Driving is of great importance to older people. Loneliness, lower life satisfaction and lower activity levels are linked with the loss of driving ability among elderly people. However, much policy on older drivers is negative, concentrating on selecting those who should not dri-

ve rather than rehabilitating and enabling those with age-related

disability to continue driving.

Medical screening is a reflection of these negative policies. Not only do we lack reliable and sensitive assessment tools, but screening may also be harmful to older drivers. In Finland there is regular age-related medical certification of fitness to drive. There is no reduction in the number of older people dying in car crashes but an increase in the number of those dying as pedestrians and cyclists. Dr DESMOND O'NEILL

Centre for Mobility Enhancement Meath Hospital

Sir: You quote the recommendation of RoSPA that doctors check older drivers more carefully. The real issue is not one of age, but of competence. The huge cost, financial and emotional, of road accidents should be addressed by a government measure requiring all drivers,

young and old, to take a retest me to task over my suggestion (8 of skills and awareness at, say, five-yearly intervals. ANNIE HENRY

PRIESTLEY

January) that vehicles capable of

zero emissions will reduce con-

gestion. The reasoning is that

when such vehicles are on stream

it will be feasible for towns and

cities to exclude all but zero-emis-

sion vehicles from their centres.

This could happen now, but

with city centres in a fight to the

finish with out-of-town mega-

centres, a zero-emissions policy

could be a step too far.

Planning Committee

Laptop dunces

PAUL WALTER

Newbury, Berkshire

Architects 4 cr

London WI

Royal Institute of British

Professor PETER F SMITH

Chairman, Environment and

Sir: Thousands of executives

use laptops every day by typing

on the keyboard. It is a dismal

reflection on the IT skills of

politicians that the new minis-

terial red-laptops (report, 13

January) are voice operated.

London W10 Sir: Mark Ormiston (letter, 9 January) is incorrect in assuming that classic cars are fuel-hungry. My 1946 MG regularly achieves 40mpg and comfortably reaches the exhaust emission standards of the last cars built without catalytic converters.

Since the fuel/air mixture of catalyst-fitted cars is deliberately set rich to give lower nitrogen oxide levels and catalysts only function when they have reached working temperature, over a three-mile journey (the average car journey in the UK), starting from cold, a comparable, correctly tuned, classic car is almost certainly less polluting than a car fitted with a catalyst. RICHARD BROWN Heathfield, East Sussex

Sir: Nigel Seymer and Carlton Reid (Letters, 10 January) take

### Islamic perspectives

Sir: Randhir Singh Bains (letter, 12 January) expresses doubts about our ability to deliver the national curriculum in the two newly state-funded Muslim schools. We "cannot be serious" about "integrating the Islamic ethos into the [curriculum]," he claims, and he's right. Such a move would be difficult and not altogether desirable.

What we will and can do. however, is to deliver the national curriculum from within the Islamic ethos and perspective of the schools. This will ensure that the education on offer will be broad, balanced and Islamic. What your correspondent calls "a narrow Islamic education" is a contradiction in terms. **IBRAHIM HEWITT** Development Officer

Association of Muslim Schools of United Kingdom and Eire Lcicester

Sir: Algeria is only an extreme case of the troubles caused by the Western policy of preferring dictatorships to democratically elected Islamic governments. For the sake of world peace, sooner or later countries with Muslim majorities must be allowed to choose their rulers

There is no reason for an Islamically inspired government to be xenophobic like that of Iran, nor medieval like that of Afghanistan. Islam is a great and varied civilisation, with many precedents on which to draw. There are eight major versions of Sharia law, each of them including many enlightened rulings. There is even a basis for democracy, for the Kharijites were advocating universal suffrage soon after the death of the Prophet and long before the idea resurfaced in Europe. PJSTEWART Oxford

#### James and witches

Sir: Don Howe (letter, 8 January) cites James I as a witchburner. He was the author of a book on demonology and took an active part in the notorious case of 1591. However, in 1605 he personally examined Anne Gunter, who had claimed that she was suffering from demonic possession. Eventually she confessed she had faked everything. James revised his ideas on witches and no longer encouraged their persecution. **ALAN FORGAN** Guildford, Surrey

## There was an early victory for the plaintiff and the judge handed over a fiver



MILES **KINGTON** 

A most extraordinary case is going on in the High Court, which has been brought by a newspaper reader against his newspaper. If the reader wins the case, it could cost the newspaper millions of pounds. The reader claims, simply, that the newspaper is no longer a newspaper in any meaningful meaning of the word, and should cease passing itself off as such.

You will get some flavour of the trial with this extract from Monday's proceedings ... Counsel: Your name is Higgs? Higgs: It is.

Counsel: And what is your first name, Mr Higgs? Higgs: Higgs has always been my name. There was never any other name which I had before Counsel: You mean - your full

it. It always has been and still is my first name. Counsel: No, I don't mean first name in that sense. I mean, in the sense of a first name being a Christian name. What is your Christian name? Higgs: There is nothing

unChristian about the name Higgs, I hope, Counsel: No, I suppose not. In that case, what is your forename?

Higgs: George. Counsel: So your name is George Higgs? Higgs: Partly. Counsel: How can your name be partly George Higgs? Higgs: Because there is more

of it that you have left out.

name is longer than that? Higgs: Appreciably. Counsel: So, what is your full

name? Higgs: My full name is George B. R. Higgs. Counsel: What does the B. stand for?

Higgs: Γd ... I'd rather not say. Counsel: Why not? Higgs: Because you might laugh.

Counsel: Mr Higgs, there is no danger of that. This is a very serious court of law. Higgs: Then I can tell you that the B stands for Brenda. Counsel: Brenda? (He roars with laughter).

Higgs: My Lord, is he allowed to laugh at my answers? Judge: Only if they are funny.

If laughter were not allowed in court, who would ever laugh at my jokes? Counsel: That's very good, my

(He roars with laughter again.) Judge: That wasn't a joke, you fool. Now get on with it. Counsel: Very good, my Lord. Now, Mr Higgs, are you seriously asking the court to believe that the B in your initials stands

Lord! Nice one!

for Brenda?

Higgs: Yes. I was given a girl's name among others because my parents hoped I would be a girl. must be one or the other! Counsel: Come, come, Mr Higgs. By the time you were named you had been born and they must have known your gender. Higgs: Ah, but they never gave

up hope. They wanted a girl

very badly. They thought that one day I might grow up to want to change sex, and have an operation, and become a woman, and then they would have a girl after all. Called Brenda. Counsel: I see. What does the R stand for?

Higgs: I'd rather not say. Counsel: Ah! Another girl's name, is it? Higgs: No.

Counsel: Boy's name, then? Higgs: No. Counsel: Come, Mr Higgs! It

Higgs: Not necessarily. Judge: Mr Higgs. I have presided over many many trials, and seen many witnesses. plaintiffs and defendants give their names, but I have never

yet come across one which could not be assigned to either sex. I am prepared to wager that the name concealed by the letter R is no different. Higgs: How much?

Judge: £5. Now, I am extremely curious to hear what the R stands for. Come - tell us! Higgs: It does not stand for anything. It is merely an initial. My full name is George Brenda R.

Counsel: But why on earth would your parents give you an initial instead of a name? Higgs: To save me embarrassment. If they had not inserted an "R", my initials would have been G.B.H.

Judge: That is true. Here's a

Higgs: Thank you, my Lord. Counsel: Now, Mr George Brenda R. Higgs, it is your contention that the Daily Post, which styles itself a national newspaper, is in fact no such thing. Am I correct?

Riggs: Indeed. Most of its contents is not news, and what little there is is inaccurate. If the Daily Post took as much trovble over investigating anything as you have showed merely in checking my name, then I would have a little more faith

Well, I'm afraid we joined the trial a little early to get any of the full meat, so I think we'll have another extract tomorrow from this fascinating test case.

## 23/COMMENT

### Blair's new roadshow faces a bumpy path



### POLLY TOYNBEE **EMPTY RHETORIC** OF WELFARE REFORM

Tonight Tony Blair opens his great welfare reform roadshow, designed to soothe Labour Party doubters. But how do you calm the nerves of the troops when the policy still isn't decided, nor even the basic principles thrashed out?

He will start with a list of scary statistics to make the flesh creep. In 1971 only 18p in the £ went on welfare, now it's 30p. Horrors! That's why reform is essential, he'll say, with some stern stuff about his determination to see it through. This is a dangerously ill-judged approach, raising wild expectations on the right and deep fears on the left of some great cut. But there won't be. There will be sensible readjustment, redirecting small sums from those who don't need it to those who do. There is no crock of gold hiding inside the DSS, and we spend less than anyone in Europe.

Frank Field, Minister for Welfare Reform. will also be on his feet tonight at an altogether different gathering, part of his strange romance with the right. He will give the second annual Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture. the first having been delivered by the Baroness Thatcher, no less.

However, Field will say something which we should greet with a great sigh of relief. He will say there will be no Big Bang in welfare reform after all. Phew! For any Big Bang was bound to blow up in Labour's face. This is an about-turn for Field, who in an interview with me at the party conference said he was keeping his Green Paper under his sis in welfare spending - the crisis in hat because the policy was, in his own words "A Big Bang". It was to be a total philosophy of welfare, which is about as achievable as the Huchhiker's Guide's "meaning of life, the universe and everything."

So Field's Green Paper has been taken away by Blair's new Cabinet Committee to be turned into a much needed practical list ey is well spent. of sensible reforms ( as yet undecided). Harrie! Harman is wisely talking of "radical evolution", gradually nipping and tucking from the better off and giving more to those with

But there are great dangers ahead and, as ever, they come from the Treasury. Gordon Brown threatens to inflict further damage, following his disastrous intransigence on lone parent cuts. Has he learned his lesson? There's no sign of it. Ominously and unusually, a top Treasury official has just been made head of the Department of Social Security.

Despite near universal criticism, Brown is still insisting on his daft Working Families Tax Credit. It will replace Family Credit, with no gain to anyone. However, the 300,000 wives who lose out will create a big fuss. He should be warned - although it's complex, the backbenchers will eventually get their mind round this. The danger is that many reforms will be of exactly that ilk - big rows for scant gain.

In attacking benefits wasted on the rich, Harriet Harman was absolutely right to pronose an affluence test. But she was ill-advised to chose maternity benefit as an example, although the extreme Nicola Hortick case was tempting. For maternity benefit, as our Minister for Women should know, is not a benefit in the ordinary sense, but a working conditions equaliser between men and women. It guarantees that women, like men, will not be financially penalised for their biological function as child-bearer. Maybe the Employment budget should pay, maybe employers should bear the burden, but expect an explosion if this is simply cut. Of course the one-fifth of working women who get nothing deserve maternity rights too, but why is the only source of money from hardwon women's rights? What's more, it only saves a piffling £50m. Is it really worth the

Forty-four per cent of the DSS budget goes to pensioners. The right thing to do would be to declare that the well-off will lose the state pension in, say, fifteen years time. That's been ruled out; although like Norman Fowler's crucial reform of Serps, it should be done for the sake of the future. However. Labour will inch towards targeting increases on the poorest, not the richest, sensibly creating a growing two-tier pension

Real money could be saved in disability which takes up 25 per cent of the DSS budget, if the mystery could be solved of the six fold increase in claimants when there's no evidence of worse health. And should the rich get anything from the state for being sick? Fifteen per cent of disability benefit is paid to the top quarter rich-

Some ground rules are emerging. First, no existing claimants, rich or poor, will have their benefits cut (which means savings will come in slowly.) Second, new cuts will not hit the poor; reforms will hit the better off. At a snail's pace, we shall move towards abolishing most benefits for those who don't need them. Child Benefit and it's possible taxation, will probably stay on the back burner

But the longer and harder Blair looks at it, the clearer it will be to him that welfare reform is no gold mine. Trimming a few eccentricities won't save much. There is no criconfidence is caused by the politicians. Blair included. Harriet Harman is not conducting a revolution, but simply doing what any minister in charge of so much money should do - weeding its herbaceous borders. pruning dead heads, and replanting the gaps. Essential if people are to trust that the mon-

No, if Brown wants to get his hands on real money for his many urgent needs, he will have to eat a few of his own words. The hard choices are all his. He can't budge on income tax, but he could reneg on his word and raise £5bn by lifting the ceiling on National Insurance contributions, making the rich pay according to their means. Instead of picking on, say, better off working mothers, he should cast his net equally among all the better off. He could make the self-emploved pay their fair share of National Insurance. Money is there for the taking - but very little of it from welfare reform.

Tonight, Tony Blair should calm fears and lower expectations. Stop all this wild talk and put the subject away out of sight until it's been decided what to do. Then present the whole package with a clear and coherent theme - a redistributive message, but low key. No more stoking up expectation of a tiger. when a neat and sensible mouse is the more likely outcome.

### 'Alex is an insecure, self-involved, artsy borderline alcohoic ... '



**JOHN** WALSH

This is the tale of two men and one obsession. One man is Alex James, who plays bass with the rock hand Blur. Mr James has black hair that flops over his eyes and an air of studied insouciance. On slow evenings in the rock 'n' roll calendar, he can be found in fashionable

ing cool and playing billiards with Stephen Fry and other literary nighthawks, The other man is Dennis Cooper (picutred be-

London clubs, act-

something Californian writer with a reputation for meet the author. And his wish shock tactics. He writes short. stark novels with zippy monosyllabic titles (Try. Frisk, Closer)

and recurring themes of paedophilia. murdes. evisceration, sadistic fantasy and forensically-described gay sex. He's like Bret Easton Ellis

but without the, you know, charm. Now then, In Cooper's new I've been gazing at phonovel. Guide, his usual stock company of priapic junkies includes a chap called Mason. who is obsessed with a musi-

cian called "Alex Johns", the

bassist in a band called

"Smear" (its other members

about himself ("Alex, twentyeight, is an insecure, self-involved, artsy borderline alcoholic, with a blandly witty manner, passable musical talents, amazing luck and this humungous IQ ...") and a lengthy description of how Mason meets "Alex Johns" in the street one day, invites him into his apartment, spikes his Pepsi with Rophypnol and, when

he's unconscious, rolls him

onto his stomach and removes

are called Damon, Graham

and Dave. Mr Cooper does not

tax his imagination when it

comes to names). Both Mason

and the narrator (who's called

"Dennis") enjoy violent fan-

tasies about having sex with

Alex. In one dream episode, on

page 64, "Dennis" imagines

killing the Britpop Adonis at

the point of climax ("I bury the

blade, then drag it down to his

but proof copies have been

available for a couple of weeks.

Someone at the publishing

house, alert to the correspondences with real life, sent a copy

of Guide to the Blur offices,

where, instead of ignoring the

book as the outpourings of a

sicko fan, Alex James became

intrigued by it. It's easy to see

why. Along with all the fanta-

sy stuff, he could, for example,

read whole paragraphs of im-

pertinent character-analysis

The book is out in March,

groin ...").

his ... But perhaps you get the picture. Blur. I'm told, passed the book from hand to

amazed by such bizarre and intrusive fictionalising. Eventually Alex James, simultaneously flattered and alarmed, expressed a desire to is to come true. Next week, Cooper flies into London for

> a round of pre-publication interviews. One of them will be with The Idler magazine. The interviewer's Both men are reportedand the necklace, but who h "terrified" by the prospect of can't shake off the suspicion that she's somehow being tak-

tographs of Gaynor Regan for days now, and trying to decide where I've seen her before. Last August, when Robin Cook's tendresse for his Commons secretary was revealed to the world, Ms Regan had the





Are they by any chance related? On the left, a detail from Georges de La Tour's 'The Cheat with the Ace of Diamonds' and on the right, Gaynor Regan

chick. Her long brown hair was swept in a girlish fringe across her forehead. Her expression was one of pleasant if calculated neutrality, as she was snapped beside the Foreign Secretary overlooking the Eastbourne sands during the Labour Party conference. She seemed nervous but rather (£859) diploma course in Therproud of herself, in a stand-byyour-man kind of way. Five months later, depite a new home in Carlton Gardens, central London, and an assurance of marriage, she looks very different. She looks haunted, pissed off and intensely suspicious of press, politicians, cameras, pundits and well-wishers alike. But where has that combination appeared before the moony face, the long nose, the pinched little mouth, the shifty sidelong gaze? It's a classically medieval face, one you'd see on Renaissance saints, Piero della Francesca's virgins, or one of Gerard David's serving girls ... Finally I tracked it down. Ms Regan is the living embodiment of the lady card shark in Georges de La Tour's The Cheat with the name is Acc of Diamonds, which hangs Alex James. in the Louvre: the image of a woman who's got all the right cards, the cash, the clothes

> Everywhere you look, people are going on courses. On Tuesday, both the Times and the Telegraph ran long stories about the North Yorkshire Training and Enterprise Council's useful new course on How to Stuff

en for a sucker ...

look of a domesticated rock a Duvet into a Duvet Cover. (Personally I find a small child of about six invaluable in this endeavour, much as the Victorians used to send the little beasts up the manorial chimney to clean the flues). Shocking out there? news comes in about a Sconish College of Holistic Medicine From Israel, we hear there are and its lively but expensive apeutic Massage, on which all the students have to strip naked on Day One. I myself spent the

> fears of inadequacy with prof-It strikes me that, if the Department for Education and Employment were to take the North Yorkshire TEC's example seriously, they could eradicate many of the ills that frustrate us and drive us towards early cardiac arrests. All it would take is a bit of organisation - a word of advice here. or an hour of tuition in certain skills. The most obvious courses to start with are: Finding A Parking Space in Soho (one hour), Opening The Carrier Bags in Safeways While Your Groceries Are Rumbling Towards You In An Unstoppable Avalanche (twenty minutes). Living With The Fear That

You Will One Day Be Decap-

itated By The Overhead Fan In

A Wine Bar (two months), Re-

first week in January on a

cookery course, conquering my

moving a New Toothbrush From Its Box Without Using Your Teeth (three days) and Learning to Enjoy OK Computer by Radiohead (one month). Any more suggestions

stern discussions going on. concerning the ethics of Jewish people picking their noses on the Sabbath. It's weird but true. A rabbi called Ovadia Yosef has applied to the humble subject of nasal excavation all the rabbinical fury more usually directed at interracial marriage. Picking your nose too determinedly, he argues, may uproot nose hairs, in flagrant contravention of Jewish laws against shaving, cutting or otherwise removing bodily hair on the Sabhath. Eventually, he conceded that compulsive pickers mightn't be sinners after all, and decided, on the whole, not to prohibit their little habit. What absurd weakbleeding-beart kneed. liberalism. If the rabbi takes the sin of hair-removal seriously at all, he must ban all

nostril activity immediately. before going on to ban alopecia, combs, coarse-fibre socks -and, last but not least, the act of tearing your hair out in a frenzy at the foolishness of organised religion.

### That special relationship - between Europe and the US



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CORNWELL **COOK GOES TO** WASHINGTON

Robin Cook is in Washington today, and the occasion is notable for reasons far beyond his choice (or in this case non-choice) of travelling companion. Britain is currently president of the European Union, and our Foreign Secretary will be there in that capacity. For once Britain will be acting not as grumpy dog in the EU manger yearning for a reassuring pat from across the Atlantic, but as the institutional bridge between Europe and America - the very role to which its history and culture, not to mention the present Labour Government, aspire. What a pity. Mr Cook will be forgiven for musing, that the EU Presidency only comes round every six or seven years, and then for a bare six months.

At a personal level too, the omens are set fair. He seems to get on famously with his opposite number Madeleine Albright, who shares his moralistic and moralising, approach to foreign policy. But the trip offers Mr Cook more than just ridors of global power. For reasons having little to do with Britain, this Presidency could mark a new departure in the relationship between the EU and the US.

Up to now, that relationship - institutionally at least - has been a shadow of what it should be. Barring a trade war, summit meetings between the presidencies of the EU and the United States have been international diplomacy's great invisibles. When held in the LIS, they were deemed by the White House of about equal importance to a protocol drop-by at the Oval Office by the President of Vanuatu - and by the US media as about as newsworthy. In Europe, they tend to be cobbled into a few spare moments on the sidelines of a G-7 summit. And the barely disguised lack of interest by Messrs Reagan. Bush or Clinton was entirely understandable. Trade apart, they knew real power on the old continent still lay not in Brussels, but in Paris, Bonn

a chance to strut the cor- and London. The alliance that mattered was military. When push came to shove the European who counted in Washington was the one who was Sec-

retary-General of Nato. But, I suspect, not for much longer. Perspectives are starting to shift. For one thing economics and technology, strong suits of the EU, increasingly drive world affairs - and the financial shambles in Asia has been a blast of cold reality for those arguing that America's tuture straddled the Pacific, not the Atlantic, Just a couple of days ago, Richard Holbrooke, America's inhouse diplomatic bulldozer, warned of a "very rough year" ahead for American foreign policy. He wasn't talking about ringgits, bahts, President Suharto or even China but security flashpoints in Europe and its periphery: from Yugoslavia. through Greece, Turkey and Cyprus to the Middle East and Iraq, where confrontation with Saddam Hussein may well lead to a "significant use of force" - Holbrooke-speak for

something rather more than a few Cruise missiles fired in the direction of Baghdad. Europe may be self-obsessed, stodgy and underperforming. But right now it looks a wiser and safer bet than mendicant Asia.

Second, the advent of the Euro, whose launch arrangements will be largely settled during the British Presidency, will transform the EU. If the single currency succeeds. the dollar will have a serious rival as a global financial vehicle. There will he a European central hank, independent of national policymakers and with at least as much clout as the Federal Reserve. Other common institutions are bound to follow. EU enlargement will lock former Soviet satellites more closely into Europe than Nato membership ever will. Simultaneously. if a Union of 20 or more is to function, individual capitals will have to surrender powers of velofurther curtailing their ability to defend purely

national interests. So much for the big

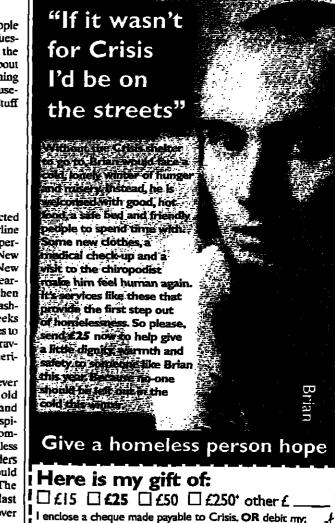
picture. On the details too, concerns are moving closer. Washington and Teheran are gingerly seeking to end their private cold war: not as quickly as as Europe would like, but quickly enough perhaps to blunt the US sanctions against tran and all who

do business with her. which so infuriate the Europeans. Both have a massive interest in keeping the lid on tensions between Greece and Turkey, and in its handling of entry negotiations with Cyprus, the EU will - whether it likes it or not - have a vital part to play. And finally the Middle East, where a stronger European involvement might just allow what is left of the "peace process" to be revived. The fly in the ointment

to all this? Paradoxically, it could be another diplomatic formulation that is already undergoing a revival. I refer to the "special relationship". The term was much handled about when Mr Clinton paid his impromptu visit to London last May to bask in the reflected glo-

ry of the newly elected Tony Blair and underline the ideological and personal affinities of New Democrats and New Labour. We will be hearing even more of it when Mr Blair goes to Washington in three weeks time, for what promises to be a touchy-feely extrayaganza of Anglo-American harmony. All of which however

risks rekindling old British illusions - and eternal European suspicions that Britain's commitment to Europe is less than the current holders of the Presidency would have us believe. The doubts exploded last month with the row over Britain's demand for a place in the inner councils of the single currency it is not joining. So in these heady times, let Messrs Cook and Blair not forget what the \* Gifts of £250 or more are worth almost a third extra to us under Gift Aid Americans (and they themselves) love to remind us - that Britain's importance to the US is a function of its influence within Europe. In Washington too, the EU's hour



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### Halifax raises stakes in savings war with the telephone banks

The war among Britain's retail banks will intensify tomorrow when Halifax hits back against its rivals with an account offering some of the highest savings rates yet. Andrew Verity and

Lea Paterson report on the ferocious battle among lenders sparked by the arrival of telephone and supermarket banks.

Halifax will fire a shot across the bows of the telebanks which are enjoying an unexpected flood of customers rushing to get interest rates of more than 7 per cent before tax.

The bank, formerly the country's largest building society, will offer interest of up to 7.85 per cent - where £40,000 or more is invested. Savers who put in over £10,000 will

receive 7.3 per cent before tax. The move comes amid increasing evidence that telebanks - banks with no branches that offer telephone service and high rates of interest - are winning a significant chunk of the UK's £500bn savings market.

The spread of telebanks has put the entire banking sector under pressure to hang on to deposits. But traditional banks and building societies have begun to despair as retail banking becomes much less profitable.

Woolwich will soon follow Halifax in launching a highinterest telephone deposit account. Standard Life Bank has received 25,000 inquiries and opened 10,900 new accounts in the 10 days since it launched on 5 January, taking deposits of £73m. Tesco's banking arm. which opened just over a year ago, has 400,000 customers. Virgin Direct's "one-stop shop" banking and mortgage account. Virgin One, will also open to the public tomorrow, with 10,000 new customers set to join.

Mike Ellis, banking and savings director at Halifax, said: "We know that a growing number of customers like the convenience of having an account they can operate from their armchair and which will also reward them with competitive interest rates. This new savings account is a first for the Halifax as it pro-

vides the immediacy and con- from both sides as mortgage venience of 24-hour access."

The new telebanks were yesterday quick to attack the account. A minimum deposit of £10,000 would also rule out many customers. Further, custwice a year, and only to a Hal-

Meanwhile, savers with Halifax's normal, branch-based Liquid Gold account receive 4.3 per cent on £10,000, falling to rates as low as 0.5 per cent on £1 deposits. A spokesman for Tesco's bank said: "They are really competing for large deposits such as City bonuses."

Halifax, Woolwich and others are clearly alarmed by the success of the telebanks. Jim Spowart, managing director of Standard Life Bank, said: "What they are doing is tying

Savings rate: tor £10,000 deposit	S
Halifax Premium	7.30%
Standard Life	7.26%
Scottish Widows	7.10%
Sainsbury's	6.50%
Tesco	6.50%
Direct Line	6.65%
Halltax Liquid Gold	4.30%
Prudential	4.50%

money in. They are reacting but reacting selectively, and only offering better interest to some of their customers."

Halifax branch managers contacted Standard Life to ask what was going on after increasing numbers of customers applied to withdraw funds. "Banks and building societies have been put on guard. They have been told about us and asked to stop more money coming out," Mr Spowart said.

Martin Campbell, product manager at Virgin Direct, criticised Halifax's reliance on numerous different accounts. have vowed to keep their rates "From the number of Halifax below 8.1 per cent if interest customers who have contacted rates hold. Halifax and others us, I'm sure they must be feeling the crunch. The mistake I think they are making is to try to use all the separate old iam are still trying to fight the war

with out-of-date weaponry." most of their costs by offering lower interest to savers than they charge to borrowers. Margins are now being squeezed

rates are put under severe downward pressure.

Industry experts were yesterday unsurprised at Halifax's move. In recent years, established financial players, such as tomers can only withdraw funds Halifax and the "big four" high street banks, have come under fire as low-cost competitors have entered the market, aided by new technology.

Unlike traditional financial players, these new competitors do not have expensive branch networks. Their low overheads allow them to offer far better deals than better established rivals and still make profits.

Philip Langguth, a analyst specialising in bank issues at Mitchell Madison Group, a business consultancy, said: "The Halifax move doesn't surprise me at all. If you look at the percentage of banked households in the UK, the only real way of attracting new business is to either play the pricing game or to work existing accounts more. It's another case of value going to the

"Playing the deposit rate game on its own is unlikely to be successful", added Mr Langguth, who believes banks need to offer "a totally new concept" in order to persuade customers to switch from their existing accounts. "This is precisely what Virgin One is trying to do."

The UK's total market in personal savings is £508bn, £319bn of which is held in banks and £127bn in building societies. A further £62bn goes to National Savings.

Banks and building societies have also seen their share of the mortgage market slip. Despite offering unprecedented deals on fixed-rate loans, they have struggled to compete with mutuals on variable rates. Bradford & Bingley and Nationwide offer 8.7 per cent or more.

Traditional lenders now maintain that home-buyers prefer mortgages with fixed rates. jars as a way to compete. They But even here they are coming under pressure. Savill's Private Finance yesterday launched a Traditional banks still cover two-year fixed rate of 3.95 per cent. On a long-term loan of £150,000, borrowers could save up to £14,000 by switching to it.

further, the Government issued a plea yesterday for pay restraint. The signs that the tight jobs Outlook, page 25 market is fuelling wage

inflation revived concern about interest rates. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, reports on the Bank of England's dilemma.

Asia's battered financial

markets started their

slow journey along the

yesterday as hopes grew

that the International

Monetary Fund (IMF)

would not suspend its

£43bn aid package to

Indonesia. The only fly

in the ointment was a

the crisis could spread

outside Asia.

grim warning by George

Soros, the financier, that

With new figures showing

earnings growth picking

up as unemployment fell

road to recovery

The number of people out of work fell by 150,000 to 1.85 million between the summer and autumn, according to the quarterly survey of the labour force. The number of unemployment benefit claimants dropped by 28,700 in December to just over 1.4 million, the lowest for 17 years.

This 22nd decline running in the monthly claimant total was accompanied by figures showing the rise in underlying average earnings had climbed to 4.75 per cent in November, up from 4.5 per cent in October, itself revised up by a quarter point from the first estimate. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said higher bonuses in both services and manufacturing and

Whatever the explanation, it alarmed the financial mar-

Stanley revealed it had a £40m war

shop acquisitions in the UK. It is also

betting business from an initial trial in

the Bank of England might not ONS said unemployment was raise interest rates again went into reverse. The minutes of the at a monthly pace of 20,000 to Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) meeting in December, published yesterday, showed that the decision not to raise rates then was in order to "wait and see" because the economic evidence was mixed rather than

George Soros, the billionaire

investor who last year criticised

the way South-east Asian gov-

ernments ran their economies,

vesterday warned that the region's

financial crisis was "a wildfire that

have the power to destroy the

system of world trade," he

said, adding that a spill-over of

the crisis to China and Latin

America could not be ruled out.

with a German newspaper,

said the crisis showed there was

a need for tighter regulation of

the provision of credit.

Mr Soros, in an interview

"Developments in Asia

has not yet been tamed".

already climbed far enough. Andrew Smith. Employment Minister, welcomed the drop in unemployment but warned: "Moderation on earnings is essential if economic growth is to be sustained and jobs growth to continue." He said it was essential to control costs in com-

reflecting a view that they had

petitive world markets. A background note to yesterday's figures issued by the Department for Education and Employment stressed that they were not conclusive evidence of inflationary pressure in the jobs market. In what could be interpreted as a message to the MPC, it said there were only a few signs of skills bottlenecks. and that the pace of decline in unemployment might have

slowed recently. David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced a new taskforce to tackle skills shortages, but said: "If we wish to avoid further pressure for retrenchment in the economy and concomitant interest rate rise, we must not exaggerate the problems."

However, yesterday's batch of statistics pointed firmly to a very upbeat jobs picture. The

allayed concern that the IMF might suspend more than Monday extended their rally after gains in US stocks on. \$43bn of aid to encourage the Tuesday night. Tokyo's benchgovernment to cut spending and deregulate the economy. Inflation fears rekindled as

His warning did little to

dampen sentiments in the re-

gion as shares and currencies

rallied for a second day on op-

timism that the financial crisis

might be bottoming out. In-

donesian markets led the gains,

with the stock index surging as

much as 9 per cent and the cur-

rency strengthening 16 per cent.

dent Subarto, a US presiden-

tial envoy and IMF officials

Meetings between Presi-

dole queues hit 17-year low falling, and employment rising,

> 45,000, more than its previous "over-cautious" estimate. The fall in the quarterly labour force survey measure, seen as the most reliable indicator, was the biggest since the survey began in early 1984. The survey also showed a big rise in employment in the latest quarter, up by 117,000, almost

all full-time jobs. Full-time employment returned to its highest level in more than six years. Part-time employment, unchanged during the quarter, remained at a

City commentators were more concerned about the upward creep in underlying average earnings. The November figure, based on an estimate of high bonuses in December as well, has matched the bonus-

related spike seen last year. However, if earnings growth did not retreat after another month or so, analysts said the Bank would have to raise interest rates. The balance of views in the City, which had tilted away from expecting an increase after signs of weakness in industry earlier in the week, tilted back the other way vesterday.

The minutes of the MPC's December meeting noted the members' sensitivity to accelerating pay. "Concerns about skill shortages persisted, and the [Bank's] Agents reported concerns around the country of emerging wage pressures."

#### Growing demand for crash-test dummies because of European Union support for a programme which tests all new models of car in different Investment column, page 26 types of accident helped First Technology achieve a 29 per cent increase in profits for its latest interim period later wat Soros warns of Asian 'wildfire' as markets rally s from 2 per cent, Hong Kong's bench-Michel Camdessus, the IMF's mark stock index rose 5 per managing director, said it would cent, Singapore's jumped more seek a "dramatic acceleration" of

gained almost 8 per cent. Meanwhile, a confidential study by the IMF acknowledged that an important element of its rescue strategy for Indonesia backfired, causing a bank panic that helped set off financial market declines in much of Asia, according to a report in the New York Times.

than 7 per cent and Malaysia's

Instead of inspiring confidence as hoped, bank closures helped bring Indonesia's banking system to the brink of collapse.

mark Nikkei 225 index rallied

### STOCK MARKETS

reforms in Indonesia, raising

hopes for a more stringent

timetable to restore confidence

in the economy. He is drafting a

new letter of intent on reform to

be signed in Jakarta, after in-

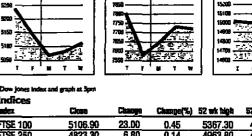
creased spending in Indonesia's

budget last week sparked con-

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Markets that slumped on

rious about reform.

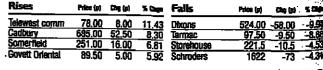


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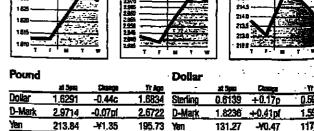
# **INTEREST RATES**

**Bond Yields** 

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES



#### CURRENCIES



### OTHER INDICATORS

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### **Profit warning reveals Christmas shock for Dixons**

**Dixons confirmed City** fears of a weak electrical goods market yesterday when it issued a profits warning caused by poor Christmas sales of items such as personal computers, wide-screen

televisions and hi-fi systems. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports.

Dixons shares crashed 10 per cent to 528p when the company said profits would be below market forecasts. Analysts reduced their estimates from as high as £250m to around

"Christmas was a bit of a shock." said Jonathan Clare. Dixons' chief executive. "A new Christmas trading pattern has become apparent with a greater

The gambling industry

pounds of profits from

this summer's football

World Cup in France,

according to leading

bookies. Andrew Yates

betting bonanza.

reports on an imminent

looks set to net millions of

deferring large purchases until the January sale." Sales in the eight weeks to

10 January were down by 4 per cent on a same store basis. However, this was boosted by a surge in spending in the winter sales as customers delayed large purchases. In the six weeks to Christmas, Dixons' sales were down by 7 per cent. Sales of smaller gift items such as computer game consoles, software and camcorders were well ahead of last year.

Mr Clare said the problems were exaggerated by the building society windfall payments of the summer which had "sucked forward some spending rather than creating incremental sales. Higher interest rates were also dampening consumer demand, he said. He added that the financial turmoil in the Far East was likely to have only a minor impact on consumer durable proportion of consumers prices in UK shops as most

a total of £100m on the tournament.

shop group, yesterday backed up the

than £3m in extra sales.

goods were sourced in this

Dixons announcement came as it reported a 34 per cent increase in first-half profits to £77.1m. It also said that Robert Shrager, finance director, is to leave at the end of the financial year.

Separately, Monsoon, the women's fashion retailer, issued its pathfinder prospectus ahead of its planned £350m flotation next month. It showed that in the six months to November, like-for-like sales were up 5 per cent. Analysts believe Christmas trading and the winter sale also went well with sales 8 per cent up.

Hamleys, the toy retailer, confirmed reports of a late rush of shoppers this Christmas. December sales at the flagship Regent Street sales increased by 7 per cent. The Toystack stores saw sales rise

Ladbroke, the UK's largest book- matches. This World Cup is likely to be

maker, estimates that punters will bet the best ever for the betting industry."

Stanley Leisure, the casino and betting chest and is eyeing up more betting

industry's buoyant forecasts by pre- planning to expand overseas by open-

dicted that it alone would make more ing a casino in Cyprus and growing its

Nick Batram, leisure analyst at Italy. The group could look to open

Greig Middleton, said: "More and more bookmakers at airports after

more people are betting on football launching its first site in Jersey.

more overtime in manufactur-

ing explained the rise. kets, where earlier hopes that

Bookies look forward to a World Cup winner next summer

nos for the next 12 months at least. How-

ever it was confident that some minor

gambling reforms such as allowing casi-

nos to advertise in a limited way, should

rise in pre-tax profits to £10.1m for the

Stanley announced a 37 per cent

doubts from other industry chiefs.

Stanley confirmed that the Govern-six months to October despite the fact ment was unlikely to allow it to that the industry lost a day's racing in introduce more slot machines at its casi-September due to the death of Princess Diana, which cost the group £500,000.

Stanley yesterday made Brazil favourites for the World Cup, quoting odds of 11-4, followed by France at 11come about this year, despite growing 2 and Germany at 13-2. England is only fourth in the betting at 7-1 and Scot-

land is rated a rank outsider at 100-1. Investment column, page 26

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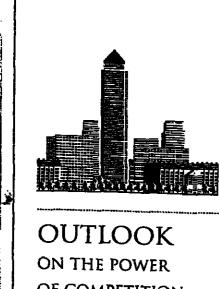
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## 25/BUSINESS



OF COMPETITION TO TRANSFORM RETAIL BANKING. SHARE BUYBACKS. AND THE ISSUE OF **ENVIRONMENT** VERSUS JOBS

## Customer care is the key for battling bankers

Savers are being treated to a veritable litary of eye-catching interest rate and new product offerings right now, from established players and newcomers to the market alike. The latest of these comes from the Halifax, which promises to pay a headline rate of a remarkable 7.85 per cent on instant access accounts. This is not quite as good as it seems, since that very high rate is available only on deposits of more than £40,000. For smaller deposits, the rates are not so competitive.

Even so, the initiative is indicative of the way in which the savings and retail banking market is being transformed by new entrants and low cost products. The good news for consumers is that these new highly competitive rates and products are not one offs, brief aberrations that will vanish as quickly as summer snow. In fact, things are just going to get better and better for buyers of financial products. The bad news for shareholders in these companies is that as they do, the profit margins are going to get worse

Underlying these changes is the rapid development and falling costs of information technology. The effect has been greatly to increase capacity in retail banking and other forms of financial service while simultaneously decreasing the need for big work forces to support them. This in turn is making possible the provision of enhanced services at considerably lower cost. Traditionally high barriers of entry to the financial services industry are falling as technology becomes more widely available and reduces the scale required for low cost operation.

As a result, a range of new entrants - supermarkets, other financial institutions like Standard Life and the Prudential, and entrepreneurs like Richard Branson - have begun to attack what was once the exclusive preserve of high street banks and building societies. The established players have little choice but to compete head on, both on price and service. If they don't, then even taking account of the usual inertia of banking and building society customers, they'll find the ground swept from under them.

In responding to the shock of the new, present market leaders will also need to rediscover some of the basic traditions and attributes of retail banking - most notably in the area of customer care. Time was when your local bank manager could be relied upon to know all about your personal finances and offer usually sound advice on bow to manage them.

That at least is the picture most people have of bespoke Victorian banking traditions. Actually, that kind of service was never available to more than a small minority of the relatively well healed. It has all but vanished in the age of banking for the masses. Today, banking is too often about selling - shoving highly priced and disparate products down the customer's throat. sometimes in a way which is positively against his best interests.

Again, new technology and enhanced competition offer the possibility of a return to those traditional banking values and standards of customer care, only this time they will be available to all. Virgin One has already recognised the demand for one stop

banking, of offering a rounded reasonably prices customer service rather than a series of different highly priced products.

The more savvy established banks and building societies are beginning to move in that direction too. Unfortunately for their shareholders, this brave new world may prove a good deal less profitable than existing retail banking models.

#### Dangers in the buyback craze

Another day, and the promise of another massive share buyback, this time from Rio Tinto (the former RTZ), which is seeking permission to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares. In Rio Tinto's case, the buyback itself is actually rather unlikely to occur until Advance Corporation Tax is abolished at the end of 1999, for as things stand, 20 per cent of the value of any Rio Tinto buyback would end up with the tax man. All the same, if there's a corporate fashion to be followed, it would surely be a shame for Rio Tinto not at least to look the part.

According to investment banks, 1998 is going to establish a new record for share huvbacks and other forms of capital repayment. The reasons are well rehearsed. Companies are being required by their shareholders to "focus" on core capabilities, and the return on capital required of them is much more demanding than it was. As a result, many companies are beginning to throw off excess capital in large quantities. Furthermore, with present very low long term

interest rates, the cost of capital can be his clean man of Europe aspirations and significantly reduced by swapping equity for

This in turn seems to suit the big investing institutions, who are beginning to view equities as excessively priced. As pension funds mature, their need, in any case, is to move away from "high risk" equities into "low risk" debt and bonds. How wonderfully convenient, then, that this is what the share buyback allows them to do.

Even assuming all this stacks up, and is not just some eloquent piece of theoretical nonsense dreamt up by elever investment bankers in order better to earn their fee, there are clear dangers in the process. All looks fine and dandy in today's benign environment of low inflation and continued growth, but what happens during the next business downturn? Many of these companies will be back, cap in hand, asking for expensive debt to be converted into low yielding equity. C'est la vie.

#### Environmental dilemma for Blair

Tony Blair is asking a lot of the middle classes who voted him into power last May. Not only does he want them to surrender their state benefits, he also expects them to help the Government deliver on the ambitious environmental pledges Labour made before polling day.

And yet it is not as simple as that, either. Everywhere the Prime Minister turns these days he is confronted with a conflict between

the more pressing concern of preserving jobs and cutting prices to consumers. The latest flashpoint is the water industry where the consumer lobby wants fat rebates from the efficiency gains made since privatisation while the environmentalists want the money spent on lead-free drinking water and aner beaches.

When Labour was in opposition, its environment spokesman Frank Dobson never missed an opportunity to excoriate the water companies for ripping off customers and lining the pockets of shareholders. Now it is in power the Environment Minister Michael Meacher is suddenly less keen to turn on the customer rebate tap if it compromises environmental programmes or, worse still, means they have to be paid for out of taxation.

A similar game is being played out in the coal industry where Old Labour's determination to save the pits was never going to sit easily with New Labour's environmental agenda. Now we discover that the middle classes cannot save the miners' jobs even if they wanted to because the pollution curbs demanded by the Environment Agency are such that they could prevent a single tonne of British coal ever being burnt again. If Mr Blair really wants to know where his voters stand when it comes to cleaner air or lower bills he should read yesterday's survey from the Energy Saving Trust. This suggests that eight in ten motorists would drive electric cars but only if they cost less and were cheaper to run. It is not just politicians who like to have their cake and eat it.

### narkets rally Water watchdog wants cut in bills from efficiency savings

The consumer watchdog for the water industry yesterday called for a one-off I0 per cent cut in bills and accused the Government's

**Environment Agency of** siding with the water companies in an attempt to stop customers getting rebates. Michael Harrison

The one-off reduction called for by the Ofwat National Consumer Council would mean a aving of around £25 per housefiold in 2000 when the average domestic bill is likely to have reached £250.

It would be paid for by efficiency savings achieved over the previous five years under the existing price control formula. In the following five years, price rises should be kept below the rate of inflation, the council added.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, was urged to support the reduction in bills when he addressed the consumer council's national conference in Birmingham vesterday afternoon. After his ever, the consumer council said

the minister's response. "Mr Meacher said we have a strong of future efficiency savings or case and he recognised the taxation. strength of that case but that he had other pressures to take into account," said Mr Gardner.

The Environment Agency is mounting a campaign for any efficiency savings to be redirected into environmental clean-up measures not into customers' pockets and claims consumer biggest electricity company, has research shows overwhelming support for such a move.

But in a letter to Mr Meacher, the consumer council said: "We are concerned that the Environment Agency for lower water companies, the Environment Agency and other environmental groups appear to be forming an alliance in an attempt to appropriate for the environment money that should properly be returned to customers."

A new drinking water directive from Brussels is expected to cost the industry up to £3bn alone to implement. There are also directives planned on cleaning up rivers and bathing water.

The agency argues that these should take precedence over reductions in customer bills. How-

speech, Jim Garner, chairman while it supported further imof the council, said he had provements in water quality been reasonably heartened by and environmental standards, it expected these to be funded out

> The dispute between the environmental and consumer lobbies over water charges is just one of a number of awkward dilemmas facing ministers over whether to put the environment ahead of jobs and price cuts.

> Eastern, the country's warned that government attempts to protect the British coal industry risk being thwarted by the demands of the sulphur emissions, which could prevent it buying a single tonne of British coal.

> Meanwhile, the Energy Saving Trust yesterday issued a goverament-funded survey showing that eight out of 10 motorists expected to be driving environmentally friendly gas or electricpowered cars by 2010. The Trust said conversion to clean-fuel vehicles on this scale could cut the UK's total emissions of carbon dioxide by 5.5 per cent - taking it a quarter of the way towards its target of reducing CO: emissions by 20 per cent.

Outlook, this page



Pollution problems: The Environment Agency is campaigning for the water industry's efficiency savings to go towards clean-up measures rather than into customers' pockets

Companies may be

refused a bank loan

unless they can show

that their computer

systems can cope

with the so-called

'millennium bug'.

is to become an

determinant of

Lea Paterson reports.

credit ratings.

Year 2000 compliance

increasingly important

The British Bankers Associa-

tion (BBA), the trade body, ves-

terday published its "Year 2000

checklists". These are to be

distributed to BBA members in

their corporate customers

2000 readiness will become an

that can't or won't discuss the

year 2000 will strain their rela-

The four-page checklist was

tionship with their banks."

readiness for the year 2000.

Banks to determine loans on

firms' millennium awareness

### Deutsche scotches rumour of merger with rival

Deutsche Bank yesterday confirmed it was conducting a review of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, its investment banking arm, but denied it was planning to merge with a rival investment bank. Rolf Breuer, Deutsche's chief executive, said the bank was considering dropping the Morgan Grenfell name as it was not commonly used in the industry, and also that Deutsche could merge its investment and commercial banking operations. But Mr Breuer said: "We have no current consideration of merging with JP Morgan or any other bank."

#### Hercules steps up attack

Hercules yesterday stepped up its attack on Allied Colloids after its hostile £1.1bn bid for the UK speciality chemicals business was cleared to proceed by the Government. Allied Colloids has until Friday to release its final defence document but could do so as early as today. Hercules has launched a personal assault on David Farrar, Allied Colloids' chief executive, and his record in charge of the group.

#### Rolls seeks Trent partners

Rolls-Royce is seeking further partners to help develop new versions of its Trent engine following confirmation yesterday that Lucas Varity is taking a 5 per cept stake in the programme in exchange for work worth up to £2bn over the next 20 years. Lucas Varity is investing £75m and will make components for three new engines to power stretched versions of the Airbus A340 and Boeing's 747 and 777 models.

#### Whitbread reveals little

Whitbread, the brewing and leisure giant, yesterday said trading was in line with expectations and trading in the two weeks over Christmas and new year was comfortably ahead of last year. But analysts were left none the wiser by the statement, which lacked details of the performance of any of the group's divisions. The group also declined to comment on speculation that it was close to shutting down two of its five breweries.

### Railtrack appoints director

Railtrack will announce today the creation of a new position - that of performance director, whose job will be to ensure that the trains run on time, John Curley, 44, takes up his position later this month and will report directly to Brian Mellitt, the engineering director. Mr Curley has worked in the rail industry for more than 20 years.

#### Sketchley in sale talks

Sketchley has confirmed it is in talks that could lead to disposal of its high street division which includes the dry cleaning and Supasnaps business. The likely buyer is thought to be Nat West Equity Partners, Birmingham, though a deal is not expected until next week. The price is thought to be less than £10m.

#### **Budgens profits rise 15%**

Budgens, the supermarket group, has continued its good run with a 15 per cent rise in half-year profits boosted by strong sales and improved margins. Half-year profits rose to £5.8m helped by the strong pound which helped supply costs.

#### Reprieve for Watmoughs

Watmoughs' battle against a £188m hostile takeover bid from Quebecor, the rival printing group, was put on hold by the Takeover Panel yesterday, pending a decision from the Office of Fair Trading on whether the bid should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Under the original timetable, Watmoughs had until next Friday to come up with its final defence against the bid.

#### Racal closes Winhub

Racal Electronics is closing the Winhub project, part of the loss-making Racal Data Group, as part of its plans to slim RDG down for sale. It will close with the loss of 350 jobs worldwide, including 50 in the UK office in Hook, Hampshire.

#### Chemical industry warning

The UK's chemical industry warned against further increases in interest rates vesterday, saying there were already signs of a slowdown in activity which would only be made worse by the prospect of higher exchange rates. The Chemical Industries Association forecast output would grow by 2 per cent this year in the UK and by 3.5 per cent across Europe as a whole.

### More share buybacks on the way as companies swap equity for debt

Rio Tinto, the Anglo-Australian mining group, yesterday joined a growing band of companies seeking to buy back their own shares when it said it would seek authority from shareholders to buy in 10 per cent of its share Peter That Larsen finds that institutional investors see no end to the trend of companies swapping equity for debt.

Rio Tinto, whose shares have taken a hammering in recent months as a result of the Asian crisis and falling metals prices, said share prices were a good use of the company's cash.

Buying back shares, particularly in current market conditions, should achieve earnings per share improvement for the shareholders and enhance the underlying value of those shares which remain outstanding," said Robert Wilson, chairman of Rio Tinto pic, the group's UK

Analysts said that given uncertain market conditions, the company was better off buying in shares than investing in new

mines. A 10 per cent share buyback would cost the company over £1bn. But with an annual cash flow of £2bn and a gearing ratio of 26 per cent, experts reckon Rio Tinto can afford it.

Shares in Rio Tinto Limited. the group's Australian arm. rose 8 per cent to A\$18.30, while shares in Rio Tinto plc finished the day up 15.5p at 713p. Peter Davy, an analyst with

investment bank Société Générale Strauss Turnbull. pointed out that Rio Tinto would not necessarily use the authority to buy back shares. "All they are doing is making sure they have the full set of tools available to get their balance sheet in order," he said. Nevertheless, the fact that

Rio Tinto is considering the move points to the growing fashion of companies distributing their spare cash to shareholders. In the past 18 months, British firms have handed back more than £10hn in the form of share buybacks and special dividends. Recent converts to the trend include Bass, the hotels and brewing group, and electronics giant GEC.

But there is much more to come. Nat West Markets, the investment bank, reckons that share buybacks alone will reach £7bn this year, up from £3bn in

belief that increased levels of debt will reduce a company's overall cost of capital. Since investors demand double-digit returns from shares, companies have to produce those returns from investments funded by equity. Debt, however, costs no more than the company pays in interest. With corporate borrowing rates at historically low levels, debt has become much

Giving cash to shareholders is also seen as safer than pouring money into risky investments or acquisitions. "Buying back shares is like taking over a company where you know exactly what you're buying and you're not paying a premium," says one leading fund

He points to utilities, insurance companies and the former building societies as obvious candidates to distribute spare cash. Other favourites include Associated British Foods, the food group which has accumulated a huge cash mountain, British Telecom and Marks &

The trend towards share buybacks has been accelerated by recent tax changes. In the past pension fund investors had a preference for equity because dividends came with a tax

Underlying this trend is the credit. When Gordon Brown. the Chancellor, abolished the tax credit in July, however, shares immediately became less attractive. Mark Tinker, equity strate-

gist with UBS, the investment bank, says British companies currently carry less debt on their balance sheets than businesses in the US and continental He calculates that if UK debt levels rise to the same level

as the rest of the world. British

companies would be able to retum £100hr. Generally, institutional investors encourage the trend. When companies are generating free cash flow we are happy to see them buying inshares," says Mark Critchley. an attempt to help banks gauge

head of balanced funds at Gart-

more, the fund management

"But we wouldn't expect a company to do it if it was at the expense of long-term investment in the business."

Nevertheless, other land managers sound a note of caution about firms overstretching their balance sheets, "Incurring debt may involve putting a published by the BBA, with the company's destiny in the hands of its bankers," says one. "Bankers aren't the shareholders' triends.

aid of banks, after requests from BBA members to take a lead on co-ordination of year 2000 policy. Banks will not be forced to use the checklist, which has guarantees." Outlook, this page

been designed to act as "a basis for discussion between bank and customer"

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), which represents around 112,000 small companies in the UK vesterday warned that businesses without millennium bug policies should act "sooner rather than later". A FSB spokesperson said: "Up to now the banks have been very good (with businesses lack-

But it will get to a stage when banks will start getting worried. Now is the time to act." It is not only the bank manager who is likely to start demanding evidence of year 2000 action from companies. Katie Morris, chief executive of Cisco, which represents smaller quoted companies, believes

ing a millennium bug policy].

also have to prove they are Mike Young, assistant dir-"millennium bug-free". ector of the BBA, said: "Year "Companies should increasingly expect to be asked increasingly important part of about the year 2000," she said. credit assessment. Businesses

that companies wishing to float

or make rights issues could

The BBA was optimistic yesterday that its own members would be fully prepared for the millennium. Mr Young said: "I am pretty confident that the banking industry in the UK will be year 2000 ready by 31 December, 1998, although I am not in a position to issue any

### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

#### Dixons delivers a seasonal shock

The market was expecting a slowdown at Dixons, which is why the shares had come off so sharply since their 720p peak in November. But yesterday's figures were worse than even the most pessimistic analysts had expected, hence yesterday's additional 10 per cent decline. No one was expecting a profits warning and a 4 per cent fall in like-forlike sales over the Christmas period.

In fact, the figures would have been even worse if it hadn't been for a post-Christmas surge as bargain-hungry consumers waited until the sales to buy higher-ticket items such as washing machines and dishwashers. In the weeks running up to Christmas, likefor-like sales were down by a thumping 7 per cent.

But this is no disaster story and it is one of the characteristics of Dixons that the market tends to over-react to both good and had news. It is certainly true that Dixons is going to have a tough start to the year and the market will not easily forgive yesterday's shock.

It seems clear now that last summer's windfall payouts simply sucked forward some big-ticket spending rather than creating much in the way of incremental sales. Interest rates rises are starting to bite and shoppers are increasingly stalling some purchases until after Christmas when they can buy things more cheaply.

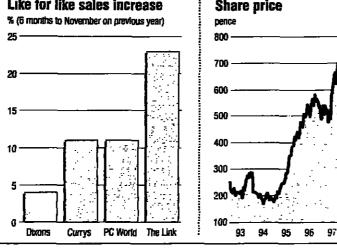
Given all this it is a testimony to Dixons' stock management that it managed to hold margins and not go into the winter sale with a serious stock problem. Another problem is that by the summer Dixons will be up against some extremely onerous sales comparisons as last July it was seeing 17 per cent like-for-like sales advances fuelled by the Halifax windfalls.

But Dixons should fare better later. The World Cup should increase demand for consumer electronics like higher priced televisions and videos. The launch of digital television in the summer will provide a further boost and while the departure of the finance director has come earlier than expected this remains a well managed сотрапу.

Management has not been deflected from its strategy of moving Currys out of high streets to retail



Market value: 2.25bn, share pri	ice 524p (-58p	)			
Trading record	1995	1996	1997	1996/7	1997/8
				Haltن	year —-
Turnover (£bn)	1.6	1.9	24	1.0	13
Pre-tax profits (2m)	100.3	101.5	200.2	57.5	77.1
Earnings per share (p)	16.6	15.3	34.3	9.0	12.6
Dividends per share (p	7.25	8.75	10.5	2.4	2.9
Like for like sales % (6 months to November on			Share pi	rice	



parks and expanding both PC World and The Link.

Dixons shares may have flown too close to the sun last year but on revised analysts' forecasts of £225m they now trade on a forward rating of just 14. That looks good longer-term value.

### Odds stacked against Stanley

Stanley Leisure, the casino operator and bookmaker, has lost its winning to allow operators new slot machines streak over the last few months. Its shares have fallen almost 15 per cent ably much longer, a move which had from a peak of 320p since last spring promised to increase Stanley's revenues over fears that its casino business was failing to come up trumps and that the Government had put its plans for the deregulation of the industry on hold.

However, pre-tax profits rose 37 per cent to £10.1m for the six months to October, causing the share price to perk has actually fallen in the last six up 9p to 273.5p.

Casino profits did fall 9 per cent to

Yoicetype

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95 96 97 98 £4.73m. However, its £1.5m scheme to solve a staffing crisis is working and the of fuel in the tank and switches that business looks to have turned the corner. The bookies chain can also look forward to a big one-off boost from the World Cup. Perversely, the takeover of the Coral betting chain by Ladbroke should help business. Ladbroke is unlikely to compete with Stanley for any

new sites on the market and competi-

tion authorities may even force it to put

more bookies up for sale.

But Stanley's problem is that organic growth in both its divisions will be hard to come by. The Government is unlikely for at another year at least and probdramatically. As for betting, most of the growth has come from new numbers games and slot machines but the prospect of further growth here is somewhat limited. It is a worrying trend that the number of betting slips taken

60, 1/2

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around £24m-£25m for the year to April, putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 18-19.

Given Stanley's strong management team, which is armed with a £40m war chest, the rating is justified but the upside looks relatively limited. Hold,

#### First Technology races ahead

Since its near-fatal crash in 1991, when it looked like it was on its last legs. First Technology has been unstoppable. Rising demand for safety features in cars has provided a growing market for the group's electronic switches, which cut car fuel supplies and unlock doors in a crash. The same factors have also boosted demand for First Technology's family of crash-test dummies.

Yesterday's first-half results to October, which showed a 29 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £5.7m, suggest that growth is showing no signs of slowing. Even though it is supplying almost 14 million fuel cut-off switches a year - they are installed in one in three new cars produced around the world ~ chairman Fred Westlake reckons there is more to go for.

Meanwhile, First Technology can look to sensors which measure the level unlock a car's doors after a crash, to provide a further boost to earnings. European Union support for the new car assessment programme - the system of rating cars according to how they perform in a series of crashes - will ensure that demand for dummies remains healthy. Of course, there are risks. At a fore-

cast growth rate of just 2 per cent a year. the world car market is hardly booming. General Motors and Ford, two of First Technology's largest customers, are expected to lose market share. That said, customers continue to demand ever more sophisticated safety features, and it will take years before First Technology's products are fitted as standard on every car. Competition remains a worry, but the group's main products seems to have an unassailable lead.

On Peel Hunt's full-year profit forecast of £11.5m the shares, which yesterday rose 24p to an all-time high of 343.5p, trade on a forward p/e ratio of Analysts forecast pre-tax profits of 22. The premium rating is fully deserved.

### Shandwick talks included discussion of full offer

Lord Chadlington, the chairman and founder of Shandwick International, the world's largest independent public relations firm, disclosed that the group has held preliminary discussions with major business

partners about a range of strategic options ranging from joint ventures to to a full offer for the company. Clifford German reports.

Yesterday Shandwick spokesmen refused to elaborate during the company's close period prior to the publication of fullyear results later this month.

They refused to confirm reports that the potential partners included True North, an acquisitive US-based advertising agency best known for its subsidiary Foote Cone and Belding. True North has a 4.5 per cent stake in Shandwick acquired through the acquisition of Golin Harris in 1987. Shandwick

shares rose 3.5p to 52p.

marginally higher at the interim stage at £3.9m.

Shandwick's biggest single shareholder is the UK Active Value Fund, led by Julian Treger and Brian Myerson, who are reported to have intervened to put pressure on Lord Chadlington, the younger brother of Selwyn Gummer, the former Tory Agriculture minister, to find ways of delivering better value for shareholders. He is supposed to have promised to deliver value with-

Shandwick is a global business and more than half of the revenue now comes from the US compared with less than 25 per cent in the UK. It suffered problems through its push for growth through overseas acquisitions in the 1980s and ran up debts of £70m which have now been run down to around £40m, finance director Roger Selman said yesterday.

The company has been nicknamed the civil service of the public relations industry because of its size, complex organisation and high staffing levels. It also lacks a major advertising business, which usually offers a more Shandwick's profits recov-reliable source of earnings than ered sharply to £9.2m in the last public relations, a volatile and public affairs and leisure.

financial year but were only competitive business where accounts frequently follow account directors to rival firms.

A number of US advertising agencies are also known to be anxious to make acquisitions in the UK public relations industry in the drive to complete a global coverage across the full range of media services.

Last year the Shandwick financial public relations division suffered a loss of several senior executives, and a further small exodus took place last month. in six months from last autumn. There were reports a year ago of talks between Shandwick and Lowe Bell, Sir Tim Bell's public relations and advertising group, although these were denied.

> incided yesterday with the announcement of a major reorganisation of the group's operations worldwide, which will merge five separate Shandwick brands into a single brand, with the aim of making it easier for clients to access the most relevant area of expertise. Operations will be reorganised into 10 specialist groups, including brand communications, broadcast consultancy, business and technology. design, healthcare, interactive, internal communications, financial,

The report of discussions co-

### Cruise liners to return to Liverpool's Pier Head

Cruise liners are poised to return and a huge office complex at Empress of Canada, left in 1971. to the centre of Liverpool after Princes Dock, next to the famous It is soon to return to Liverpool an absence of more than 25 years under an ambitious £60m redevelopment scheme of the city's waterfront planned by Mersey Docks and Harbour Company.

The ports operator plans to build new berths for cruise ships at Pier Head by dredging the River Mersey. Together with other new port developments designed offering services to and from Ireland, Mersey Docks hopes to attract 500,000 passengers by the turn of the century.

The group is also building a new 174-bedroom Holiday Inn from the city waterfront, the

The Liver Birds 1970s TV series.

Mersey Docks is one of the channel berths by 1999. largest property owners in the its existing port facilities and retail and leisure space.

1960s. The last liner to set sale no pressure on it to do so.

Liver building, immortalised by under its new name Apollo and will be able to use the deep

Mersey Docks' reputation city, with over 2,000 acres at its and share price has been tardisposal. It has embarked on a nished by a long-running dispute 850,000 square feet warehous- with 329 former dockers. Howing and industrial project near ever the group insists that the action by the former employees is could eventually build another having no effect on its business. to bring in ferry operators 1.5 million square feet of offices. The group is still determined not to enter into any new negotia-Cunard stopped running tions and it claims the Governcruise ships from Liverpool to ment, which still owns a 15 per North America in the mid-cent stake in the business, has put

The state of the s

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### **Electricity suppliers may** have to put up a bond

industry to protect customers and trade creditors if they go bust.

The idea was canvassed yesterday by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regdebts of defaulting suppliers across the industry.

The size of the bond would dustry creditors and householders who could be owed money when their supplier went under.

A consultative document issued by Professor Littlechild back to September. suggests that the bond should be

Suppliers entering the compet- large enough to cover the costs itive electricity market may have of providing an electricity supply to put up a bond similar to that for at least one month. However, operated by ABTA in the travel it leaves open questions such as the actual size of the bond.

The paper comes amid growing speculation that the Government is about to an nounce a delay of up to six ulator, as a way of spreading the months in the start of compeltition for domestic customers

Householders are due to be allowed to start shopping aroung relate to the supplier's market share and would help pay inslowness of some regional elegtricity companies in gearing up for competition, mean that the start date may have to be put

— Michael Harrison

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held at the place date and time
shown above for the grant to them of
a lustices Licence authorising them to
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## Airtours lifts off amid takeover speculation

MARKET REPORT



**DEREK PAIN** 

An array of rumours sent three in the pecking order, rose 6.8 to 4,823.3 and is 120.5 ness and accounts for 15 per after winning a £2bn Rolls- will lead to Airbus orders being

ago, climbed 35p to 1,335p. The yearly shareholders meeting takes place next week and there are rising hopes chairman David Crossland will relate a joyous tale of bumper treading and possibly announce a share spilt, the first for five years.

But, of course, in such a frenetic atmosphere, takeover surface. The holiday industry is due for a round of consolidation, having survived almost unscathed a Monopolies

Thomson, Britain's biggest holiday operator, is thought to 23 higher at 5,106.9. be planning a summertime

romping to yet another peak. and there is talk the big un-The soaraway shares, the quoted groups, which have a equivalent of 40p seven years big say in the industry, are flex- ond liners have often enjoyed

> Airtours, however, is the market's favourite for a strike. It already has a possible predashape of the Carnival Corporation, a big, ambitious US group which sits on 29.46 per cent.

Ever since Carnival arrived the market has had the distinct impression it would not be speculation is not far below the content until it gained control of the British operation, floated only 10 years ago and now valued around £1.9bn.

The stock market made and Mergers Commission in- further modest headway in

SmallCap added 10 to 2,350.1 - just 50 from its record. Secing their corporate muscles. a bright opening to the year, only to subsequently fall away.

Somerfield, the supermarket chain, had another heady tor on its share register in the trolley run, running 16p higher to a 251p peak. Takeover talk is in the air although Credit Lyonnais Laing suggest clients should take profits. The shares were 190p last month.

Cadbury Schweppes, the soft drinks and sweets group, was the best performing blue chip, fizzing 52.5p to 685p. A US deal with Coca-Cola did the trick. Coke, Cadbury's fiercest rival, has agreed to often brisk trading. Footsie, at extend an agreement to manone time up 51.9 points, closed ufacture and distribute Cadbury's products in the US. Significantly, supporting The new deal will run until the

Airtours, the holidays group, could attract bid attention from its peak; the FTSE cent of the US soft drinks mar- Royce order. ket. It has been under pressure because Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola control much of the US distribution network and have ifax hardened 17p 772p as not always displayed much enthusiasm towards Cadbury

> the UK group would be forced to buy bottling companies. LucasVarity, the aerospace group, climbed 7.5p to 214p

> brands, prompting speculation



Financials had a strong session with Barclays, up 45p at 1,658p, leading the way. Hal-Lehman Brothers produced a 568p as Panmure Gordon drew 900p target price. A planned attention to its Asian exposure. share buy-back allowed Rio Tinto to ignore the pull of falling metal prices and gain 15.5p to 713p. BT gained 15.5p to 516.5p on hopes its broad-

Dixons dived 58p to 524p on its disappointing trading statement. Storehouse fell 10.5p to 221.5p after awakendismay by postponing its festive comments from today until Monday. Mirror Group the fund run by interventionlost 2p to 192p following the ists Julian Treger and Brian resignation of director Liam Kane and talk of a Salomon

Smith Barney downgrade.

shelved. Philippine Airlines underlined the danger by cancelling an order for four Boeings. Rolls fell 5p to 217p. Diageo, the drinks giant, softened 2p to

Takeover talk lifted Telewest Communications 8p to 78p and Creative Publishing, the greeting card group, 4p to 155p. Sketchley, the casting ban will soon be lifted. cleaning chain where a bidder hovers, said it was in talks to sell its retail division. Public relations group Shandwick International firmed 3.5p to 52p ing the adage that delay means after disclosing negotiations were under way which could lead to a bid. UK Active Value,

> Myerson, prompted the talks, Proteus International improved 8.5p to 63p as expec-

#### TAKING STOCK

Beigo, the mussels and beer restaurant business with just two outlets, received an enthusiastic reception. In heavy trading, with Seaq putting volume at nearly 56 million, the shares closed at 6.5p, in effect a gain of 3.5p. The restaurant operation was pumped into a loss-making property group. Lonsdale Holdings. The deal was handled by entrepreneur Lake Johnson, famed for using a struggling computer group as the vehicle to bring Pizza-Express to market.

Banner Homes, the house builder, held at 97p. Charterhouse Tilney forecast a £3.2m profit jump to £5m this year, putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of only 4, which it describes as "completely anomalous".

A unitisation proposal lifted

: ± 8 84		flotation which could value the Canadian controlled group at £1.3bn. First Choice, number	could catch their Footsie	end of 2,005.  Dr Pepper/Seven-Up is a large part of Cadbury's busi-			proved 8.5p to 6.5p as expec- tations grew its BSE test could become a commercial propo- sition.	the shares of Baring Stratton Investment, an obscure invest- ment trust, 50p to 329p, a peak.
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### Which emerging market is going to be the next South Korea?



DIANE **COYLE** ON THE SIGNS **EVERYONE** FAILED TO SEE

For the forward-looking investor, Asia is so five minutes ago. The question is where the next trouble spot is going to bc. Of course, if the recent crisis has put you off emerging markets at all, but the case for diversifying into higher-risk, higherreturn countries has not disappeared in a puff of smoke

nomic prospects. For all kinds of reasons, to their potential for catching up with more advanced economies. emerging markets as a group should not be written off. But how do you tell the genuine trend-setters from the fashionvictims? After all, Korea

seemed such a safe bet. Answering the question does involve looking backwards, and 1996 to \$116.8bn in June 1997, one of the main credit rating a faster annual rate than the rise agencies, Fitch IBCA, has during 1996. Banks rely less than published a fascinating postmortem of why it misjudged verdict of the ratings agencies edness, even though the total is Korea, As it admits: "Clients are because most of them have relevant to creditworthiness. entitled to expect us to perform better in future ... the Korean at least the agencies were in downgrades are the most dra- good company. matic instances of sovereign

rating downgrades, bar none."

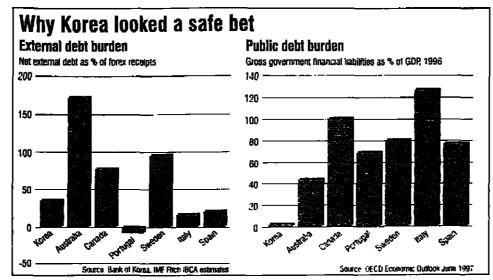
graded Korea but, unfortunately, after the event. In the summer the country was still on an investment-grade AA minus (or AI on Moody's scale), Between the start of its financial crisis and late December it was marked down four times to near-junk ratings.

To paraphrase Tolstoy, healthy economies are all alike, but every crisis is different. So a cynic might raise a languid eyebrow at anybody claiming that events in Korea marked a new kind of crisis. However, this does seem to be true. As the Fitch IBCA report spells out, all the conventional prudent measures of the country's financial soundness suggested that nothing was wrong.

For a start, Korea had recently been admitted to the ranks of the high-income club. the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and had been given a land was in this position, but altogether, this isn't interesting clean bill of health in the IMF's regular economic analyses. As recently as October it was predicting that its GDP growth would be unchanged at 6 per along with South Korea's eco-cent in 1998, only slightly lower than the rates seen in the early 1990s. As far as official reports from their youthful populations went, Korea was still an economic miracle.

In addition, commercial cheerfully, increasing their exposure quite dramatically in the first half of this year. The total claims foreign banks had on Korean borrowers soared from \$108.8bn in December the buyers of bonds on the their own, in-house research. So

All of this brainpower was The background to recent the riskiness of investing in Kocriticism of the ratings agencies, rean debt. Some warning signals Moody's and Standard & Poor's are pretty obvious. For example, no means a heavily indebted figures based on spot transactoo, is that all sharply down- a fixed exchange rate accom-



panied by a rapidly ballooning current account balance is a clear signal of an overheating economy unable to rely on devaluation as a safety valve. Thai-Korea far less so. Its previously large trade deficit was already declining, partly because the exchange rate, though still managed, had fallen somewhat, and partly because the government was not running a huge deficit.

The fixed exchange rates had, however, encouraged Asians to borrow in dollars because there was no currency banks had continued to lend risk. But most analysts had been trying to keep an eye on each country's total level of foreign indebtedness, in dollars as well as local currency.

This was not easy, as there is no requirement on countries to produce consolidated figures. Even the IMF required the publication of government debt only, not private sector indebt-As the Korean crisis blossomed, there was a good deal of uncertainty about the figure - it turned out to be much larger applied to certain measures of than the number anybody first

thought of. However, South Korea is by country. As a proportion of tions. The UK has only just the faint-hearted.

GDP, debt is higher in countries started to publish details of like Canada and Australia. never mind other emerging markets. A high and rising share of its debt was very short term - which had been Mexico's problem too - but analysis overlooked it in the Korean case because of the low total.

Fitch IBCA concludes now that a high proportion of shortterm debt always matters and especially in markets which are not very liquid. And if much of the debt is owed by the banking system, its soundness and liquidity are crucial. The solidity of the country's market institutions has been proved fundamental by the Korean crisis.

If there are any concerns about any of these - the composition of the foreign debt, liquidity, or the health of the banking system - overseas investors ought to look for substantial foreign exchange reserves as evidence that the country could weather a credit

evidence about the level of reserves means the IMF ought to require countries to publish details of the operations in forward currency markets, as these make a nonsense of official

forward transactions. Thailand's reserves fell sharply early in 1997 because of its previously hidden future liabilities.

Finally, there is the role of the financial authorities themselves. In Korea's case, the presidential election prevented a wholehearted response to the crisis. For example, the Bank of Korea prevented short-term interest rates from rising enough to attract new foreign capital as dehts came due in December. If this had happened, the situation might not have taken such a dramatic turn for the worse before the IMF forced an increase in

The report's verdict: "We over-estimated the sophistication of Asian policy makers, who have proved good fair-weather navigators, but very poor sailors in a storm.

The morals can be summarised as: take account of all measures and dimensions of indebtedness; only completely What's more, the need for trust countries for which the connomic and financial data are fully transparent; and scrutinise carefully its particular institutional and political situation. If that seems to rule any emerging market, well, that still leaves gilts and US Treasury bonds for

### PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

JOHN WILLCOCK



I'm backing Ken Livingstone for Mayor of London if the maverick Labour MP's performance on Tuesday night is anything to go by. The moustachioed newt-fancier was addressing executives and journalists gathered on HMS Belfast, next to Tower Bridge in London, for the launch of the RBS Advanta Platinum Card.

One wag observed that Mr Livingstone had turned up in some rather scruffy trainers, to which Ken responded: "You may have noticed I am in Nikes tonight. It's not that I'm trying to out-do Gordon Brown in informal dress. It's just the fact that I was sprinting for an interview with David Mellor and I sprained my ankle. I think it was a judgement of God."

Turning to Tony Blair's landslide election victory, Ken mused: "I think we would have won by a landslide if we had had a pig as a Labour Party leader."

Pinning the victory on Tory unpopularity rather than the electorate's approval for New Labour. Ken continued: "We could have said we would raise taxes, we could have said we would slaughter the first born, and we would have still got elected."

Ken then awarded Mo Mowlam nine out of ten for courage in her handling of the Northern Ireland peace talks, and Gordon Brown zero for his performance as Chancellor to date. Our hero thinks the dour Scotsman's economic policy will lead to a "monster recession" because the pound is overvalued. "It's going to be an absolute disaster." Ken chirped happily.

Instead, Ken wants higher personal and corporate taxes and lower interest rates, together with a 100 per cent tax rebate on all new investment projects. Any takers?

So who are David Hague, Stephen Caswell and Donald Osborne, the suits from Price Waterhouse who have been sent in to liquidate Hong Kong's investment bank, Peregrine?

Mr Hague is 47, British, and was educated at Bootle Grammar School. He joined Price Waterhouse in Southampton in 1975 and moved to Hong Kong in 1978 after being made a partner. He is in charge of PW's insolvency practice in the former colony.

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A PW colleague of his in London tells me that Mr Hague lists his "non-professional activities" as "Member of the Ladies Recreation Club", whatever that may mean. We all need to relax, I suppose.

Mr Caswell, 42, also a Brit, was educated at Buxton College in Derbyshire. He went straight to Hong Kong in 1980 after qualifying as an accountant with Thomson Mc-Clintock (now KPMG). He spent a few years in PW's London office specialising in banking and capital markets. Mr Caswell was also a member of a joint panel set up by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants and the Independent Committee Against Corruption.

Which leaves Mr Osborne, an American originally from LA, the only non-partner of

Fresh from having a dreadful Christmas, Dixons has just recruited the FTSE's youngest finance director (I think). The fresh-faced Ian Livingstone, aged just 33, was born in Glasgow and went to Manchester University, where he graduated at the spotty age of 19. He trained to be an accountant at Arthur Andersen and put in stints at Bank of America and 3i before joining Dixons seven

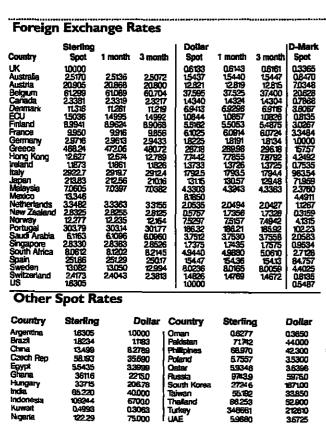
The most normal thing about the wunderkind is that he's a mad keen Celtic

Mr Livingstone will replace Robert Shrager, who is leaving Sir Stanley Kalms' right-hand side after 10 years at the stores group. Mr Shrager fancies a go at "turnaround situations", he said. Well, there's no shortage of those in retailing at the moment. what with Laura Ashley, Sears, Liberty ... but not Dixons.

Dog racing, traditionally the haunt of Del Boy at places such as Catford in south-east London, is about to acquire a rather more polished swagger: Sir William Rous, colonel of the Coldstream Guards and one of this country's most distinguished soldiers, has been made chairman of the British Greyhound Racing Board

Geoffrey Thomas, chief executive of the Board, is bullish about the dogs. "It's the second most popular sport in the country, and £1.5bn is year is bet on the dogs. We had a very good 1997," Mr Thomas said.

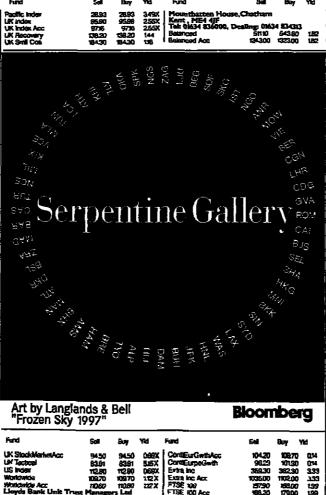
"Sir William is joining at a very exciting time for the sport," Mr Thomas added. "We are aiming to change its image, with more young people and women coming along." Sorry, Del Boy, there's no room at the track.



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29/RACING

Challenger's new focus on

overdue win

Challenger Du Luc, one of the

most frustrating horses in train-

ing who has finished runner-up

in all four of his races this sea-

son, will run in a visor for the

first time at Wincanton today in

an attempt to focus his atten-

Martin Pipe tries the gelding

in headgear in the John Bull

Chase hoping that the eight-year-

old can gain his first victory since

he scored over the same course

and distance last February. Pipe

took the decision after Chal-

lenger Du Luc's most recent and

most notable failure when he

tion at the finish.

## Grand plan looks like wishful thinking

The long-awaited financial plan for the future of racing was unveiled yesterday amid talk of a united front, but as Greg Wood reports, its implementation will prove to be more difficult still.

After leafing through the 83 pages which form the British Horseracing Board's Financial Plan for Racing, it is tempting to paraphrase Gerald Kaufman's comment on the Labour the game seems to have blind- Levy. Party's manifesto before the ed him to cold political reality. 1983 General Election. If that, according to Kaufman, was the longest suicide note in history, then the result of Peter Savill's hold your breath for stage two. prolonged deliberation on the

funding of racing is surely the calculations is that British rac- gering £69.31m in extra prize- risk finding yourself accused of bility yesterday, at least one of longest begging letter - or that, at least, will be the inevitable conclusion among the hardnosed politicians at whom it is directed.

at yesterday's Industry Committee Forum, which received the first official glimpse of his plans, Savill is passionate about es maximise the use of their asthe sport of racing, and wants to see it thrive. He is also an intelligent and thoughtful man, whose analysis of the industry's of 1.75 per cent in the rate of structure was, on the whole, a reasonable one. Yet the very strength of his affection for "Stage one." he said afterwards, "is to convince the Government that we have a case" - so don't

ing needs an additional annual investment of £105m to put it on a firm financial footing and allow it to compete effectively with its major international ri-Like the rest of the audience vals. He believes that racing itself can find £25m through increased sponsorship, relaxed legislation allowing racecours-Now, Savill will argue that his sets, and a larger return from the Tote. The remaining £80m. though, would arrive via a cut

The breakdown of how Savill would spend his £105m is instructive. It includes £14m for marketing. £5m to make up for recent Levy deductions, £1.8m The bottom line in Savill's for integrity services - and a stag-

horse owners like, well, Savill, Again, he has the well-being of racing at heart, but the sight of a multi-millionaire tax exile arguing that he should receive cash from ordinary, tax-paying punters to reduce the cost of his hobby was almost surreal.

cash injection would improve racing so immeasurably that betting turnover would soar, allowing the Government's right General Betting Duty, from hand to reclaim - via duty and 6.75 to 5 per cent, which would corporation tax on bookies be passed on to the sport via the left. This may be true, but then again, it may not Look at it from Gordon Brown's point of view. You can do nothing and keep raking in £300m a year from betting duty. Or you can cut duty as Savill would like, and

money for impoverished race- handing millions of pounds to his denials was of the nonsome of Britain's richest citizens, committal, serve-if-called-upon people who, in any case, almost certainly voted Tory back in May. Politicians like to boast about taking difficult decisions, but that you suspect, will be one overshadowed by The Plan, of the easier ones.

Such was clearly the reasoning of Lord Wakeham, who resigned 24 hours before the plan was unveiled rather than attempt to sell it the Government or defend it in public. His scepticism was not shared by many members of vesterday's what it had given away with its audience, and representatives of trainers, breeders and (surprise, surprise) owners all greeted the presentation warmly. Indeed, Savill would no doubt be a popular choice to succeed Wakeham, and while he appeared to rule out that possi-

variety that Jim Hacker always carried off so well. The remainder of yester-

day's business was inevitably and there was little of the acrimony which has made previous Forums so enjoyable. Mel Davies, one of the prime movers behind an attempt to build a new racecourse at Pembury in South Wales, did at least launch a long attack on the BHB Board for its refusal to sanction the plans. Such was his anger, however, that a very telling point - that some of the board members faced a conflict of interest when it came to a vote - was lost in the stream of bitterness.

Last night, meanwhile, Sav-



Savill: passionate plea

ill was due to board a plane to Dubai in order to present his plan in person to Sheikh Mohammed, who has threatened to withdraw from British racing unless the finances of the sport are improved. Out in the Emirates, the Sheikh need only issue a decree in order for his wishes to become law. How Savill must wish that the British system could be equally uncomplicated.

seemed to have the King George VI Chase at his mercy at the fi-RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Banzhaf (Lingfield 2.00)

NB: Luke Warm

(Wincanton 2.10)

### Punter with Cavalier attitude splashes out £3,000

Big Matt has joined Ask Tom for that ride, could now partner 7-1 only the previous day from among the big names that will miss Saturday's Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot, while Lord Dorcet is the contender attracting most betting interest.

Fitzgerald is free for Celibate role

Without Big Matt, who landed the two-mile event in 1996, Nicky Henderson's stablejockey. Mick Fitzgerald, becomes free to ride Celibate, who is favourite in some lists. Richard Dunwoody, who had

Lord Dorcet or Native Mission. Ask Tom's absence means there were plenty of takers yes-

that the weights for the race will rise by 11lb, leaving Mulligan as the new top weight and bringing all bar Green Green Desert into the handicap proper.

One of those to benefit by the weight rise is Lord Dorcet, who was cut from 8-1 to 5-1 by William Hill yesterday and from 7-1 to 6-1 by Coral The latter also been under consideration firm had eased the gelding to

an initial price of 11-2, but terday and by lunchtime Coral had been forced to think again. Victor Chandler Handicap Chase (Ascot, Saturday) Coral: 9-2 Or Royal, 5-1 Celbate, 11-2 Mulligan, 6-1 (from 7-1) Lord Dorset, 7-1 Arctic Kinsman, Cumbnan Challenge, 8-1 Leotard, 9-1 Jeffel, 14-1 Time Worlt Wart, 20-1 Storm Alort, Native Mission, 25-1 Green Grand Descrit

William Hilt: 4-1 Cetbate. 9-2 Or Royal, 5-1 Lord Dorcet (from 8-1), 11-2 Muligan, 7-1 Arc-tic Kinsman, 8-1 Cumbrian Challenge, 10-1 Jeffel (from 12-1): Leotard, 14-1 Time Won't Wart, 16-1 Big Matt. 25-1 Native Mission, 33-1 Green Green Desert.

Kendal Cavalier, winner of the long-distance chase at Cheltenham on New Year's Day. was the subject of an extraordinary £3,000 cash bet for the Grand National yesterday.

A Coral betting-shop customer in West London placed £2,000 to win and £1,000 to place on the Rod Millman-trained gelding at 50-1 for the Aintree marathon. Coral reacted by cutting the odds on Kendal Cavalier to 33-1 from 50-1.

"The customer has shown alier is certain to have to race himself to be a particularly with a lot more than his true good judge when it comes to handicap weight on his back ante-post betting." Coral's which is a serious disadvantage spokesman, Simon Clare, said. Kendal Cavalier is a sound jumper and a thorough stayer. his best - conditions which so will love the unique characteristics of the National."

That may be true but on this occasion the punter's optimism Tuesday, William Hill's anteis surely misplaced. The weights for the National have not yet shaken up with money for sevbeen framed but Kendal Cav- eral horses, notably Tamarisk in

in the Grand National - and requires testing ground to show rarely prevail at Aintree.

After the release of the International Classifications on post Classic betting has been

the 2,000 Guineas and Bahr in the Oaks.

Grand National (Ambre, 4 April, Const. 12-1 Suny Bay, 15-1 Rough Quest, 20-1 Earth Summin, Seven Towers, 25-1 Him Di Praise, Time For A Run, Clei De Bnon, Encore Un Peu, Coome Hill, Belmont King, King Luciter, 33-1 others. Caks Staken (Epsom, 5 June): Wildem Hill: 14-1 Glorossa, 16-1 Beitr (from 20-1), Cape Verd, Jibe, 20-1 Exclusive, loving Claim, 25-1 Ashmalich, Flawless, La Nult Rose, Michight

#### WINCANTON

	HYPERION
1.10 Dines 1.40 Totally Yours	3.10 Trying Again (nb)
2.10 ALLER MOOR (nap	3.45 Capenwray  4.15 Percy Crow
2.40 Province	,

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places) © Right-hand, galloping course, Run-in of 200yd.

© Course is NE of town on 83081. Templecombe station 4m. ADMISSION: Members £1250 (Junor Members, 17 to 22 years, £650); Tattarsels £8; Course (and cars to course) £4. (Linder-lês free into all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free.

© LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe — 34 winners from 135 runners gives a success ratio of £52%; P Nicholis 27 from 179 (209%); J Gifford 15 from 68 (221%); P Hobbe 14 from 100 (4%).

of 252%; P Nicholas 27 from 179 (209%); J Gattord 15 from 68 (221%); P Hobbe 14 from 700 (14%).

● LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 17 wins from 92 rides gives a success ratio of 185%; T Dascombe 10 from 76 (13.2%); G Bradley 9 from 36 (25%); R Johnson 8 from 32 (25%).

● FAVOURITES: 162 wins in 45 races (39%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Overrunning (110); Sliema Creek (2.40); Challenger Du Luc (visored) (3.10).

13		<u> </u>
	1.10	SPETTISBURY 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDL (CLASS E) (DIV I) \$2,500 added 2m Penaity Value \$2,20
lι	022-16	DINIES (41) (CD) (T Chappel T Curry) P Nichols 6 11 11 T J Marph
1 2	14-141	POTTER AGAIN (20) (CD) (LI E Potter) D Micholson 6 tl 6 R Thornto
3		BUDDY DIVER (255) (Ms Sian Gale) C Popham 5 ti 5 R Greet
I 4	2111-00	CHARLIE HAWES (30) (Silver Knight Exhibitions) S Wellor 9 TI 5C Webb (
l 5	2/60-6	COOL AS A CUCUMBER (26) (Reshleigh Arms) O Sherwood 7 11 5 M Richard
16	D	FOURITAIN VILLE (40) (J D Brownrood) M Medowick 5 11 5 B Fants
17		GO CAHOOTS (USA) (28) (Moreo Bartol & John Moreon) A Turnel 5 11 5 _ C Plac (
8	1	KENTISH BARD (50) (D) (Miss Caroline Perkins) N Gassine 6 T 5 W Marsh
Į ģ	0231/	LAKEFIELD LEADER (641) (Newbury Owners) N Henderson 7 11 5 M A Fitzgera
ľτ		LANG WHANG (16) (Mrs N Bowby) A J Bowby 7 11 5 G Hogen (
1 1		LUSCOMBE (34) (P Jones) P Jones 5 11 5 G Upto
Į į	2 2323-2	NEAT FEAT (40) (D) (Food Brokers Ltd) D Elsworth 7 ti 5
1 8	3 0-00	SILVER GULL (20) (J But, A Cleave & T Harrin) H Hove 7 ft 5
lγ	0-0	ZABARI (38) (P.J.Ormet) G Thomer 5 ft 5 B Power
Ιŧ	5 0542	JACUTES GLEN (30) (BF) (The Yearlings Ltd) P Hobbs 5 tt 0 G Torms
Įξ	5 00-PP	OVERRUNING (31) (R T S Mantheus) A H Harvey 6 11 D A McCarthy
17	7 50-00	COMBRIDGE LADY (70) (Hollow Bottom Pship) N Twiston-Davies 7 Ti 0 T Jeni
Į į	45	SOLDISM (26) (Mr & Mrs M C Yea) R Alber 5 11 0

#### 1.40 BLACKMORE VALE NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) \$2,500 added 2m Penaity Value \$2,164 2MB1 TOTALLY YOURS (37) (D) (Knight Hausing Participants) M Pipe 5 71 9 ..... Lower V

	21-61	Culture to
2	O/	AMERICANVAL (FR) (971) (Mrs S C Hairel S Mellor 10 11 8 C Webb (5
3	23400	COOL WEATHER (41) (5) Heath C Podright to it b
ĭ	- Añ	RETY MEY DIV 4671 (H.) M Webb) H Webb 5 11 5
:		INDIAN NECTAR (16) (Mrs Carol Mewman) R Brotherton 5 11 5 N Williamson
5	300343	ALDERT THE LIGHT CAST ( Model ) Model 6 11 4
6	P-P040	
7	0.4	
ė		CALAMORCI LA 07195) (M.R. Clemence) G 530000 5 11 3
ž	e 2000	GRANSTOWN LAKE (SE) IM R Churchesi A Berrow 7 11 3 W McFarland
¥	16-445	TREMOVERAGE E MAN DATE G & Bohartes R Frost 6 Tt 3
10	/100-P	IT'SNOTSIMPLE (16) (Mrs G A Roberts) R Frost 6 tt 3
Ħ	0P0-4F	PRODUCT TUDET HALI (2) Series & Horizon & 11 2
Ē		PROCESSOR MENTAL STATEMENT AND HAMINES IN 11 2
	-	CO EUT DACE MAI (Clark Darlace) M PROM 5 Ti 1
8		PETROS GEM (38) (Mrs R A Murrell) M Bolton 5 10 13
14	P3P-05	PETROS GENE (38) (AIS II A MUTICIPI III COMPINS (5)
15		KALMOOJID (F166) (Gerard Duckheven Stud) A Barrow 4 10 Ti L Cummins (5)
ĸ		TRANSPORT TO 44 TO 102 Destroyed D Marrier & T. B
		na nova Musi Muses Missel Copies N. (1977-1971 4 T) N
17		TRUE VISION (49) (Richard Heddisch) W G M Turner 4 10 2 J Power (7)
18	OF	TRUE VISION (49) (HICKERD RECORDI) TO G OF ILLIES A 10 5 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
		- 18 declared -

BETTING: 4-7 Totally Yours, 8-1 Indian Noctor, 10-1 Domny Three, 12-1 Sunrise Special, Siles Rose, 14-1 LimeRght, Pepita, 16-1 Americanus, Calandrella, 20-1 Albert The Uon, 25-1 others FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

TOTALLY YOURS should put an end to one or two reverses the stable has had lately What's more, she should be a welcome whiter for Jonothan Lower on his first note back after a long time out of the game. Following her early-season success Totally Yours has been campaigned in claimers for her last times starts, her only defeat being when third behind Native Field and Lansdowne at Haydock. That's far better form than the rest nave schieved. Dormy Three's form, such as it is, stands as much inspection as the more obvious Indian Nectat and Sutrities Special, while newcomers Celandrella, Limelight and Papitis have all shown ability on the Fist.

Selection: TOTALLY YOURS

ł	_		THE TIME CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE
Ĕ	12	.101	LILLO LUMB CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value 23,864
ı			ART PRINCE (14) (T Nell, A Tuckerman D Alport) C Brooks 8 Ti 13
ı	1	-3F3P3	ART PRINCE (14) (T Neil, A tuberman of Septiment 9 to 13 JA McCarthy 8 BEAR CLAW (38) (Roach Foods Lad) O Sherwood 9 to 13 N Williamson
ı	2	1U3-3F	BEAR CLAW (36) (Roach Foods Ltd) U Strawton 1 12
Ī	3	6-U223	ANDRE LAVAL (19) (CD) (AFS C WINDS IN COMP) IN ANDRE 10 17 11
ì	4	3FF4-0	HAVE TO THINK (40) (D) () BECKWEL 1 COTY) PARTY M Pipe 10 11 5
ı	5	014-4F	BROLAN ARROW (NZ) (19) (Libe & Joerna Habella Arrow All Arroys MFE (203) (Rack Sheep Flock) P Webber 8 11 6
ı	£	P4F15-	JACOB'S WIFE (263) (280) State Protein D Nicholson 7 ft 5
ı	7	42-121	COOLE HILL (16) (D) (B Wrisel and J Found) 7 Found 17 A Thomson ALLER MOOR (65) (CD) (B7) (G Kerle) R Alner 7 10.7 B Fenton B Fenton C R Remed 12 10.7 B Fenton
ł	8	제-학	ALLER MOOR (65) (CD) (EF) (G Rere) R Auto 7  SPECIAL ACCOUNT (28) (CD) (Tony Funito) C R Barreol 12 10 7
ı	9_	462-24	SPECIAL ACCOUNT (28) (CD) (CD) (CD) (CD) (CD) (CD) (CD) (CD
ı	10	35134	FULL OF BOUNCE (84) (C) (February Brown 8 10 4 G Tormey B PERNICALER (15) (Mrs Anons Byton) P Hobbs 8 10 4 G Tormey B Personal Brown B Personal B
l	11	3F-2J5	PERMICALER (15) (Mis Anorel Bylor) Frontis 8 10 0

Luke Warm, 10-1 Full Of Bounce, Indian Arrow, 14-1 Rennesler, 16-1 Have To Think, 20-1 others but the Warm, 10-1 Full Of Bounce, Indian Arrow, 14-1 Rennesler, 16-1 Have To Think, 20-1 others and confirmed that improvement had been maintained by just holding on in a novice handcap firmed that improvement had been maintained by just holding on in a novice handcap firmed that improvement had been maintained by just holding on in a novice handcap firmed that improvement had been maintained by just holding on in a novice handcap here in November on his reappearance. He couldn't get to grip with the front-running here in November on his reappearance, the couldn't get to grip with the front-running Symbol Of Success over Assort's stiffer tences on his only start since but he's a young horse with the scope to cope with these more experienced handcappers at the weights, horse with the scope to cope with these more experienced handcappers at the weights. Once that is a strongly-run race at Stratford 16 days ago, to when you have not the only thing and hearing to quite looks as if she can take the 4b rise in her strick and the only thing and hearing right is her jumping. Once she does she could be very useful Bear Claw was having right is her jumping. Once she does she could be very useful Bear Claw was busing from the thind last to finish a moderate third when Andre Laval was touched off by Sunley Bay here in November – Full Of Bounce third when Andre Laval was touched off by Sunley Bay here in November – Full Of Bounce third when Andre Laval was touched off by Sunley Bay here in November – Full Of Bounce third when Andre Laval was touched off by Sunley Bay here in November – Full Of Bounce third when Andre Laval was touched off by Sunley Bay here in November – Full Of Bounce third when Andre Laval was far too far on the saction of the season was going with a time. They should to say whether it made a difference, but Bear Claw was going with a time. That was far too far of the process of the first time and search he in A

#### JAMBOREE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,500

7141	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
056	MURITADI (P210) (CD) (The C LG S Partnership) Miss H Knight 5 Ti 3. R Thomas
п-040	BLADE OF FORTUNE (17) (D) (V G Greenway) V Greenway 10 10 8 X Alzpu
13611F	A S JIM (60) (D) (H Jones) O CNell 7 10 8
	BON VOYAGE (17) (French Relation Partnership) P Hobbs 6 to 8 E Husband
P-533	WELTON ARSENAL (35) (Paulton Broodstock) K Sishop 6 10 7
	PROVINCE (14) (D) (JE Brown) C Mann 5 10 7
50	TWO TO TANGO (49) (F J Miles & Mr W Miles) N Twiston-Davies 5 to 7 Nr Kelginley
	MANOLETE (19) (D) (C Flear) Mrs M Jones 7 10 5 M Dun
	SLIEMA CREEK (48) (D) (Jack Joseph) P Hoobs 4 10 4 J Goldstein (3)
	CLASSIC PAL (USA) (17) (D) (P C Yorvi N R Mitchell 7 10.3

Palladium Boy has his first run for Martin Pipe and is on a handicap mark to be exploited if some improvement can be found. He'd have to be watched in the betting. A S JIM is up 12b since the start of the season yet has to be considered well treated as he was a close third from well out of the handicap when falling at the hard light at Cheltenham last time in the race in which previous winner Spendid bear subsequent scorer None Street. That was over 2m St a trip A S Jim really needs, but he is also effective at this minimum trip as he showed when writing over Warwick's sharp two miles first time out this season. Province had little chance to confirm if the progress he showed when writing on first-time blinkers at Lingfield had been mannamed by falling in a clear lead at the third at Exercisin New Year's Day. That fall might have been a blessing in discussed as the third at Exercisin New Year's Day. That fall might have been a blessing in discussed to the burnel of these mannaments. with a chance on the Lingfield form. Sliering Creek is being tred in binkers and seems reasonably treated agenst his elders on his Worcester win in October Fitzwillham was a decent novice last season and wound up by finishing third to Disallowed at Doncester in February He hasn't raced since and that may be a problem with his big weight. Asl El Asi has far more on his plate than when writing a Hereford seller last month, but Crandon Boulevard, Muhtadil, Two To Tango, Vallent and Welton Arsenal all have a chance at their hast in a controllation.

3.10 JOHN BL	JLL CHASE (	CLASS B)	£10,500	added	2m	5f

10	Penalty Value £7,116	l
5335	AMTRAK EXPRESS (26) (CD) (Antrak Express Ltd) Mrs J Pitman †: 11 10	I
\$-2022	CHALLENGER DU LUC (FR) (20) (CD) (D A Joinson) M Pipe 8 77 30 A P McCoy V	١
10304	STATELY HOME (20) (D) (P Sowen P Bowen 7 TI 10 N Williamson	ı
25-11F	CALLISOE BAY (26) (D) (R Waters) O Sherwood 9 Ti 6 . J A McCarthy TRYING AGAIN (33) (CD) (W H Dore) D Gandolfo 10 Ti 2 R Dumeroody	ı
/12:60	TRYING AGAIN (33) (CD) (W H Dore) D Gandolfo 10 ft 2 R Dunesody	ı

BETTING: 6-5 Challenger Du Liss, 9-4 Trying Again, 4-1 Catileoe Bay, 12-1 Statety Home, 14-1 Am-

knyone who gave CHALLENGER DU LUC the benefit of the doubt after he was caugh Anyone who gave CHALLENGER DU LUC the benefit of the doubt after he was caught by Callisbe Bay's (9to worse m) renewed effort at Newbury would have been apopter to start his display in the King George. He was cantening all over that high-class field in the straight only to decide enough was enough on the run-in and hand the prize to See More Business. Four seconds this season show Challenger Du Luc for what he is, yet or all that the eight-year-old has bags of abifty and is worth one more chance in this small field with a visor on instead of his usual blinkers. After all, hed had Tryinig Again way behind when chasing home Senor B Behutin in Chettenhams Triplepmii Chase last morth. That of course wouldn't be a fair comparison for Trying Again whod run is owell until running out of stamma in the Hermessy Gold Cup after a lay-off and probably found the Chettenham race coming a bit soon. Trying Again is a high-class performer in his own right – he was a bit unflictly against subsequent Scottish National winner Behroni King trec 10tb) at Chepstow last season – and would be the one to be on should Challenger Du Luc throw in the rowel again.

### 3.45 CORSCOMBE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) \$4,500 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,373

	74'000 00025 TILL OL 1 DIEDLY 10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-10-1	
14-131	BOOTS MADDOM (14) (BP) (L.) A Prepos) Mass V Williams & 11 10	noemeetiw M
33272	LADY HIGH SHERIFF (315) (D) (BF) (M View Thomas) T Forster & 11 5	S Wynne
51-4-52	WHO AM I (30) (D) (n Welstead) A Amer 8 11 6	Pi Dunwoody
5-22-2	MAJORS LEGACY (37) (Mrs G Leigh) 1 Forster 3 11 5	A Thornton
333.65	INDIAN DELIGHT (17) ( loe & Joanne Richards) M Pipe 8 11 5	C Maude
4557.3	MILLERS FORD (56) (D) (BF) (Mrs Cerst Fletcher) N Gaselee 7 TI 5	W Marston
10000	RULE LAWS (618) (D) (Jettrey Harde) P Nacholis 8 71 2	T J Murphy
P42.52	FINNIGAN FREE (17) (Alss Sarah Rich) G Ham 8 71 2	Mr M Frith (7)
		A P McCoy
6-3eb	WINNOW (20) (Encora Recing) Miss H knight 8 10 10	J Culloty
4(1-15)	HIGH MOOD (26) (D) (Mrs & Farquhar) T George 8 10 9	R Ferrant
3-6P5F	COUNTRY STORE (20) (Westfield Racing) A P Jones 9 10 7	Ş Mc <del>Ne</del> di
P42-11	EKEUS (50) (Mes \$ Dourtos-Permant) J Ning 8 10 7	Mi A Fitzgerakt
nne se	GREENFIFLD GEORGE (17) (Mrs Narola Vann) P Hobbs 7 10 6	G Tormey
P-6243	DARING KING (15) (Clooks Statues) M Botton 8 10 4	L Aspell (3)
52.03	COSA FLASR (19) (Martyn Boom) K Balley 8 10 3	Mr R Wakley (5)
	14-13U 33212- 51-4-22 5-72-3-6 5-72-3-6 5-72-3-6 10-220-2 22P-3-ft 6-3-ft 6-3-ft 9-6-6-7 9-6-6-8	N-13U BOOTS MADDEN (14) (BF) (L JA Propos) Mass V Williams 6 11 W 3322: LADY HIGH SHERIEF (215) (D) (BF) MV Ward Thomas) T Forsier 6 tt 15 1-4-2 WHO AM I (30) (D) (H Welses) fi Abre 6 tt 6 5-2-2 MAJORS LEGACY (37) (Mrs G Leigh) T Forsier 3 tt 5 333-6F RODIAN OBLIGHT (171) Libe 8 Joanne Richards M Pipe 6 tt 5 45-2-2 MAJORS LEGACY (36) (D) (Letting Horde) P Nothols 6 tt 5 10020/ BLUE LAWS (618) (D) (Letting Horde) P Nothols 6 tt 7 2 P49-22 FINNIGAN FREE (17) (Mas Same Rich G Ham 6 tt 2 229-4F CAPENWARY (16) 16 N Paparati J King 9 tt 7 6-3-th WINNOW (20) (Enigra Razing) Mass H N right 8 th 9 3 49-14 (High MOOD) (28) (D) (Mrs E Farquhan) I George 8 tt 9 3 49-14 (Res Site of Mass S Douglas-Pernany J Ang 8 tt 7 00-45-7 GREENS (50) (Mass S Douglas-Pernany J Ang 8 tt 7 00-45-7 GREENS (ED) GEORGE (17) (Mrs Narole term) P Hottos 7 tt 6 P-62-3 DARING KING (15) (Colero S Stables) M Botton 8 tt 9

The improving Ekeus is unbeaten in both starts this season but stablemate CAPEN-WRAY may be the one to be on. Always up against it when lourth thy detault) behind some speedy horses at Chepstow in November. Capenway was about to leave that first outing in 19 months way betind until talting three out in Spring Gales race at Strattord to days ago. He would probably have been only third but is gradually coming back to the form which enabled him to finish second to such horses as Trying Again, (hereland General Crack off a much higher mark two seasons ago. Winning firsh point-to-pointer Boots Madden made a convincing start to his chasing career under Rules at Wordester in September and needed the run behind Hill thu all Towcester a week before Christians when next seen out. The fact that he unseated his nider at the first at Windsor on New Years Day is just a bign from this otherwise retable jumper and he may be the one they all have to beart. High Mood and Winniow have been winning small races and have more to do in this company is more likely danger being Milliersford, who looks the part and will have learnt from his chasing debut behind Heriorse at Warwick. Majors Legecy and stablemate Lady High Shertiff are nice prospects.

Selection CAPENWRAY

#### SPETTISBURY 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE 4.15 (CLASS E) (DIV II) \$2,500 added 2m Penalty Value \$2,206 104-5 CHERRYMORE (47) (D) (R & exors E Histories) Mrs J Pernan 7 II T 2- BENEFT-IN-KIND (390) (Earl Cadogan) Miss H Kinghi 6 Tl 5 BRLLY BOX (19) (D) (BF) (Alec Tuckermen) is McCourt 6 TI 5

,		CALL CONTRACTOR	L Cummans (5)
•	012-12	COLATHY KRIS (15) (E J M Pyal) B Ryal 6 11 5	N Williamson
5			B Fenton
	2.053	DRAGON KING (41) (Dragon Industrial Services) C R Barwell 6 11 5	
:	2-000	JUST A ROADIE (Miss A Jones) G Thomer 5 11 5	B Powell
Ī		KNOCK LEADER (19) (D) (Amony Sofronou) M Pipe 6 11 5	A P McCoy
}	/1-120	CHOCK LEADER (13) (D) Graphy College of the Park 2 to 5	.Mr R Widger (7)
•	1650	ORSWELLTHATENSWELL (15) (R M E Winghi) P Hobbs 7 m 5	A Thornian
0	-	MEDIAN PRIMITION INTO MEDIAN PRIMITING PRIMITING DISTRICT	
u		ROYAL SHREWSBURY (68) (Lous Jones) Mr. M Jones 8 11 5	о Вуте
1	5	HUTHE STREET SECTION OF SECTION SECTIO	J Frost
2	500	SPORTING CHANCE (35) iH S Channon) ii From 6 11 5	L Aspell (3)
3	.¥.,	SWEEP CLEAN (307) (Mrs Angele Brode) J Gillord 6 T 5 .	
_	****	TREE CREEPER (26) (Mrs. C Williams) A Turnel 6 11 5	L Harvey
4	345-00	FLYING ARTIST (31) IF Jones BR Milman 6 T 0	Mr M Frith (7)
6	90	PLYING ARTISC (31) In Advisor On the Art of the Co.	G Termey
6	<b>0</b> €-	HACK ON (257) (Mrs A E Goodwin) P Hobbs 6 TI 0	N Williamsonton (7)
7	NYC DD	CEE MOUNTON (31) INTS S WELLETMAN (MES 5 WELLETMAN 5 11 O	
-		THE CLARGACH (157) (\$ 5 Helver, T Former 6 Ti 0	S Wynose

8 6- THE CLARSACH (357) (2:5) Recycle of the Clark of the

Billy Box and Knock Leader are both good bumper winners who could easily inake a whiting start over hurdes though on form free Craeper, Cherrymore, who bear substituting start over hurdes though on form free Craeper, Cherrymore, who bear superior withing to be supplied the same tends to ter down Percy Crow's excellent find behind. Dawn Leader and Soodime George at Chetenham, but that was his first ever run and the winner is out at the top drawer Goodime George stablemate Cherrymore ran withe winner is out at the top drawer Goodime What ham at Newbury, and the winner that decreasily know where they stend.

#### WETHERBY

**HYPERION** 1.20 Shore Party 1.50 Cattly Hang 2.20 General's Orders 2.50 Glitter Isle 3.25 Escartefigue 3.55 Caulker

GOING: Soft (Heavy in places).

Left-hand over crount. Run-on of 200yds slightly uphill.

Course is NE of flown on Bi224 near junction of AS8 and A1.

ADMISSION: Club Ct3: Tattersells S9; Course S3 (OAPs S2). Accompaned under-life free. CAR PARIX: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: Mrs M Reveley 44 wins from 82 runners (24.2%). G Richards 24-10 (218%). T Easterby 21-99 (236%). D Nicholson 18-67 (25.3%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: P Nives 43 wins from 171 rides (25.1%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: P Nives 43 wins from 771 rides (25.1%).

L Wyer 40-161 (248%), A Dobbin 19-114 (167%), R Guest 17-81 (21%) ● FAVOURITES: 200 wns from 467 races (42.8%) BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Black Ice Boy (2.20).

### 1.20 EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HDLE (CLASS D) £3,800 added 2m 4f 110yds

40/ THE TIGER HUNTER (799) (BIF) J M Jefferson 7 11 0

18 355-5 WOODFIELD VISION (48) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 7 rt 0 9 56022 LIPPY LOUISE (023) Mrs M Reveley 6 10.9 Mr T Cornerford (7) 20 SIOFRA T 88 6 10.9

21 5. UP THE CREEK (453) Miss M Rowland 6 10 9. . P Midgley (3)

- 21 declared BETTING: 11-4 Shore Party, 3-1 Sweep Gently, 6-1 Hillesden, 8-1 Merry

### 1.50 WIKE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

1	710-01-	RANDOM HARNEST (290) (DBF) Mrs M Pereley 9 12 0 P Nev
2		CATTLY HANG (14) (CD) J Leign 8 11 7 A Dobt
3		ISSYIN (31) (CD) M W Easterby 11 77 7
- 2		SISTER ROSZA (19) (D) Wrs S Lamyman 10 ft 2 G Bradi
5	223-0	NICHOLAS PLANT (13) (CD) J Golde 9 TI 2. FI McGrath (
6	353-3F	MINELLA EXPRESS (76) J H Johnson 9 Tl 2 Mr C Bonner (
7	5-2321	IN TRUTH (19) (D) (BF) S Gotings to 10 ft R Johnst
e		GEMS LAD (20) (BF) Mrs S Smith 11 10 8 R Gue
9	291 P6	DOCS DILEMMA (14) D Shaw 9 10 6 . Gary Lyo
10	383TE	CUMBERLAND BLUES (14) (D) A J Lock wood 9 to 3
1		Miss A Den
11:	43P/5	HAGS WAY (20) M Todhurter 8 10 3 P Carber
		fl shedaned

### 2.20 HEALAUGH CONDITIONALS H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 2m 4f 110 yols

ble & Whet Jim Wares 9:170) BETTING: 7-2 Elusive Star, 4-1 Scotton Green, 11-2 Dailty Rymer, 7-1 Ferens, 8-1 General's Orders, 12-1 Michrale, Nordic Prince, 14-1 others

### 2.50 MONKTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,500 added 3m 1f

Minemum weight: 10st True rendicep weights: Desen D'Estruvel 9st 12to, Giber lele 9st 10tb, River Mendate 9st 7th. BETTING: 5-2 Strath Royal, 11-4 Unguided Minatle, 9-2 Couldnt Be Bet-

### 3.25 TOWTON NOVICE CHASE (GRADE 2) (CLASS A) £18,500 added 3m 1f

## 

3.55 COWTHORPE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,500 added 2m 

#### LINGFIELD

#### HYPERION 1.30 Krayyan Dawn 2.00 Banzhaf 2.30 Hal Hoo Yaroom 3.00 Mutasawwar 3.35 Run Or Bust 4.05 Castle Ashby Jack GOING: Standard STALLS: tm - outside; rest - inside DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low in sprints.

DRAW ADVANTAGE

© Let-hand sharp course

Course is SE of four on B2028. Lingfield station (served by more specified). Ocurse is SE of Iroum on B2029, Empfield station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course ADMISSION: Members:Family Enclosure £10 (under-16s free) CAR PARK: Cub 13: rest free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore — 74 winners from 5-6 runners gives success ratio of 136%. M Johnston 50 from 271 (185%): R Hannon 44 from 318 (136%): Gay Kelleway 35 from 202 (173%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A Clark 62 wins from 513 rides gives a success ratio of 121% S Sanders 56 from 526 (106%); S Whitworth 40 from 302 (132%). D Holland 38 from 136 (204%).

■ FAVOURITES: 661 wins in 2017 races (32.8%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Rivers Magic (visored) (200).

### 1.30 LITTLE ACORNS SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,500 added 1m 4f

- 11 Decarro - 1400 August - 1400 August - 1500 August - 1

### 2.00 PENNY WISE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £3,750 added 1m 2371.2 BANZHAF (12) (CD) (BF) GL Moore 5 9 10 4337-2 BANZHAF (12) (CD) (BF) G1 Moore 5 9 tD A CRIN 1 1257- SALTY BEHAVIOUR (36) (CD) R Hamon 4 9 6 R Hughes 0000-1 URSA MAJOR (13) (C) (D) A Kallevesy 4 9 6 M Rimmer 10 201- BARRIER RIDGE (227) (D) G1 Moore 4 9 2 M Wighem 9 1600- ERTLON (44) (CD) C Britain 8 9 2 . . . . . . . . . . . . W Rylin 4

BETTING: 3-1 Barrzhaf, 4-1 Barrier Ridge, 9-2 Ention, 13-2 Ursa Major, 7-1 Salty Behaviour, 8-1 Robellion, 12-1 Invocation, 14-1 others 2.30 CAVEAT EMPTOR HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m

1955 0 WOTTASHAMBLES (12) (CD) L Mortague Hall 7 10 0 2002 HAL HOO YAROOM (7) J Jersins 5 9 13

### Afrimum, 10st True weights: Policus Tower Bat 11th, Balleswindden 9st 8th BETTING: 100-30 No More Hessie, 5-1 Palacegate King, 6-1 Caudier, 13-2 Dana Point, 13-2 Fen Terrier, 8-1 Quango, 9-1 Political Tower, 12-1 others 8 02:3-4 SIGNED AND SEALED (5) (CD) (BF) C Cyzer 4 8 10 10 00606 NOT FORGOTTEN (122) R Hoad 4 8 8 M Ferton 4 1 1 001-6 ELLAMINE (14) D Haydh Jones 4 8 4 A Mackey 5 2 000-31 COASTGUARDS HERO (7) (C) M Lisher 5 8 3 (Bex) J Marches 1 1 00406 SHARP DEED (14) M Marches 1 2 00406 SHARP DEED (15) M SHARP DEE

3.00 APPLE A DAY HANDICAP (CLASS E) 23,750 added 6f 

3.35 MORE HASTE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added 1m 2f

# 4.05 FRIEND IN NEED HANDICAP (CLASS E) \$3,750 added 7f | Carry | Carr

Himmum weignt: 7sr 10th. True handicap weights: Little Pitgrim 7st 9th, into
10 0 Debt 7st 4th, Geordie Lad 7st 1th.
A Clark 6 Milles, 8-1 Lancashire Lagand, 14-1 Diesel Dan, Batsman, 16-1 others

#### nal fence but appeared to be reluctant to battle with See More Rusiness on the nun-in. "He's worked in a visor." Pipe said, "but I don't know if

it will solve his problems. He has a good tally of seconds but he has won an awful lot of prizemoney from those seconds more than if he wins here."

Challenger Du Luc faces four rivals today, including the Oliver Sherwood-trained Callisoe Bay, who narrowly defeated him at Newbury earlier in the season, and Trying Again.

### Diabetes fails to stop Lower

Jonothan Lower will become the first diagnosed diabetic to ride in Britain when he partners Totally Yours at Wincapton today. The jump jockey, who won a long battle with the Jockey Club to allow him to ride despite his condition, was about to resume riding in October when he suffered a broken leg in an accident on Martin Pipe's gallops. An intended return to action last month was put off as he was not happy with his fitness.

Lower, 30, is restricted to one ride a day by the Club, "Tony McCoy has very kindly given him one of his mounts," Pipe said. "We hope it's a winner."

### RESULTS

1.00: 1. FOREIGN BULE (A P McCoy) 10-1; 2. Supremiem 7-2 fax; 3. Wesley's Lad 8-1 11 ran. 11/5, 8. (J. Jonisons, Royston). Tota: 11:50; 12:50, 19:60, 15:50. DF: 19:80 CSF: 52:31. Trot: 830:40. NRs: Golden Saddle, Mas

SC231 Tino: STURL IND.
MEZZARINE.
1.30: 1. SEERRA BAY (J.A. McCarthy): 11-4
tav; 2. Nordic Some 10-1; 3. Cool Spot 5-1
12 ran. 1/2, 5. () Sherwood, Upper Lambourn): Total: EXIO; E.230; E.240; E.45; E.230 Titoast: EY2734. Tino:
CRIPTI.

\$42.40 CSF: £28.01 Tricast: \$127.34. Tho:
\$8.01
2.00: 1. NORTH END LADY (Mr Edgar
Byrne) 10-1; 2. Sweet Little Erker 9-2; 3. Cadbury Castle 2-1 tax. 11 ran. 6, 11/ (Mrs. 1.
Jewel, Maufstone) Tota: £18.50: £23.0,
£20.0, £15.0. DF: £24.60. CSF: £57.20. Tric:
£30.0. NF: Wheather Wise.
2.30: 1. BRAVE HIGHLANDER (P Hide)
5-1; 2. Ocean Lasder 8-1: 3. Bally Clover
7-1 9 ran. 3-1 fav Brogsen Lady (urusaded
nder) 11. dost. J. Gifford, Findon) 16et: £48.0:
£2.20. £18.0, £2.20. DF: £20.70. CSF: £43.0.
Incast: £263.76 Tric: £58.70.
3.00: 1. ALPINE JONER (R Durwoody)
11-2; 2. August Twelfth 4-1 fav; 3. Wadada B-1 12 ran. Hd. 9, (P Hobbs, Minehead),
Tote: £670; £2.80. £140, £2.30. DF: £66.0
CSF. £259. Tricast: £65.31 Tric £40.20.
3.30: 1. RAGAMUFF (R Durwoody) 11-4
tav; 2. High Lesele 7-1; 3. Benjl 25-1 10 ran.
8, 11/4, (P Hobbs, Minehead), Tote: £980. £100
£350. £470. DF: £340. £57: £22.33 Tricast
£3798. This £100. NR: One More Wan.
4.00: 1. LUCY WALTERS (R Thornton)
3-1: 2. Ardentinny 6-1: 3. Crazy Crusseder 7-4 tax. 12 ran. 11/4, 3/4. (Mrs. D Haine,
Newmarket), Tote: £2.80. £100. £2.60.
EF. £10.30. CSF: £23.80. Tric: £2.40.
Places £: £00.26. Place \$5: £35.60.

WOLVERHAMPTON 1.10: 1. TIME TO FLY (D Sweeney) 8-5 tax; 2. Hiltons Executive 4-1; 3. Chemicast 14-1.8 ran. 4, 11/4. (B Murrey, Malton). Tote: £190; £10, £10, £440, DF: £510 CSF: £6-1. Tonese: £6-24

Place 6: £90.26. Place 5: £35.69.

14-1. 8 rsn. 4, 11/L. (B. Murray, Malton), Total:
1509. E10, E10, E440. DF: E5:0 CSF: 25:4.
Treast: 645.21.
1-40: 1. EINO VENTURE (Alex, Greenes),
7-2; 2. See Fig. 22-1: 3. Poter Mist 5-4 fax.
8 rsn. 1/L. 1/L. (D. Nichols, Thresty Total: 5220;
E10, E220, E120. DF: 523.20. CSF: 64013
2-10: 1. MAYDORO (A. Clark), 33-1: 2.
Hurgill Lady 15-1: 3. Leigh Crofter 25-1 13
rsn. 9-4 fav Mike's Double (Hit), 3, 11/L. (M.
Dods, Darrington), Total: 52460; E500, E500,
E390. DF: 54980 CSF: 52647, Tinc: Not won
2-40: 1. PETOSKIN (M. Migham), 7-2 fav.;
2. Premier Dance 4-1, 3. Avanti Blue 4-1
10 rsn. 2, bd. (J. Pearos, Newmarket), Total:
E700; E140, E201, E210. DF: E1880 CSF:
E1803, Tilcast: E5888, Tro: E2340
3.10: 1. SILLITACH (F. Lynch), 5-2; 2.
Three Arch Bridge 10-1: 3. Rambo Walizer
11-2, 7 rsn. 5-4 fav Oneforteditch (Hit), 2, 11/L. (R. Midnishead, Upper Longolon), Total:
E330; E270, E420. DF: E140. CSF: £2638
3.40: 1. ANONYM (O. Pears), 4-9 fav.; 2.
Loch Style 9-1; 3. Ethibeat 6-1 7 rsn., 3, 11
J. L. Eyre, Thirsk), Total: E150: E120, E290
DF: £430, CSF: £2448, NF: Ashgore
4-10: 1. ALJAZ (Dane Oned), 7-4 fav; 2.
Soniked 2-1; 3. Pearberstone Lane 6-1 8
rsn., Shi-hd, hd. (Miss Gay Kelleway, Whit-combe), Total: E2400, E788.20
Places & F20864, Minosat: £105-8.
Places of F20864, Minosat: £105-8.
Places & F20864, Minosat: £105-8.

Yesterday's meeting at Sedgefield was abandoned due to waterlogging.



### There is a fine line to be drawn between the viciously callous and the coldly competent

In the verbal overkill of this sporting life, legitimate hardness is frequently put forward as calculated malice. Thuggery, of course, is off the board, but it is ridiculous to suppose that a case cannot be made for legal aggression.

What gets me off on this theme is a statement made earlier this week by Arsène Wenger that touched a raw nerve with other managers in the Premier League and gave encouragement to aesthetically minded football reporters.

Taking last Saturday's match between Arsenal and Leeds as an example. Wenger advanced the view that Dennis Bergkamp is not getting the protection that his gifts

I can only imagine how that would have gone down with some of the old-timers like Bill Shankly. who was once invited to inspect a leg wound inflicted on Terry Neill by Tommy Smith. "Aye, a hard boy, Tommy," the celebrated Liverpool manager growled.

Any game that allows for forceful acts of dispossession is bound to find itself dealing with outbursts of excessive belligerence - even the sort of disgraceful assault that caused the London Scottish flanker Simon Fenn to lose part of an ear during last week's match against Bath.

Because contact sports are now played at a pace beyond anything imagined at the time of their invention, and a great deal of mon-

ey is now thrown at success, it becomes increasingly difficult to observe and maintain the original sporting ethos.

The decline from sport as an enjoyable end in itself to a spectacle designed to satisfy the lust of spectators for victory means that most people now accept that explosive incidents are inevitable. I even come across civilised men who look upon punch-ups as part of the enter-

In any case, there is a line so fine as to be almost indistinguishable between the viciously callous and the coldly competent. One of the tackles, delivered by the Leeds defender Lucas Radebe, that caused Bergkamp to protest last week met all



### KEN JONES

the requirements of technique and legality. The old Leeds hero Norman Hunter, who is understandably considered to be an expert in such a great deal of emotional distur-

matters, thought Radebe's challenge bance, not only on the field but in to be perfect. "Take that out of football and you no longer have a game worth watching," he said.

When first called to Brazil's national team at barely 17, Pele was advised that he would not always be able to rely on referees for protection. "You had better learn how to look after yourself," Brazil's coach, Vicente Feola, said. Pele never went looking for trouble, but opponents soon learned the perils of trying to intimidate him. It was referred to as an accident, but Pele once broke the leg of a German defender who had injured him badly in Hamburg a year earlier.

Hardness in sport gives rise to

the crowd and press boxes. Today's crop of football players, fans and writers seem to get much more exercised by it than their elders did. Maybe this is the erroneous memory of a veteran, but it is the iropression here that players of 30 and more years ago went out expecting to be shaken up and got on with tasks set by their professors. They got annoyed, of course, and some-

around whingeing. They were more in tune with the realities of life, which was certainly true of an old miner when interviewed on television about a series of violent incidents in Welsh

times resorted to reprisals. But it

was not then acceptable to go

rugby. "Well, when you work underground and the roof is likely to come in on your head every day you go down there, you don't worry about a boot in the face on a Sat-

urday," he said. Wenger also said that foreign players, especially attackers, find difficulties in adapting to the tempo of English football with its constant

Well, they will just have to get on with it and, in Bergkamp's case, take a lesson from history. Doesn't he know that the greatest teams his country had sent out, those of the 1970s, were stiffened by men with reputations to suggest that they should always be approached with the utmost caution?

RUGBY UNION

### Guscott's dream ticket to Paris begins on Tyneside

Jeremy Guscott has always looked on Paris as one of his favourite rugby cities and there is a growing likelihood of his making a welcome England comeback in the lair of Les Tricolores in a little over three weeks' time. Chris Hewett hears the Prince of Centres weigh up the prospects of a dramatic return to national colours.

As befits the most lustrous of midfield diamonds. Jeremy Guscott possesses impeccable timing, a highly developed selfpreservation instinct and an eye for the main chance. If the incomparably gifted Bath centre wins himself a Five Nations place against the French on 7 February - and increasing amounts of smart money say that he will - it would be no great surprise if he ran in a hattrick of tries and dropped a match-winning goal before disappearing down the tunnel a couple of minutes early, just to catch the bathwater at the optimum temperature.

"I am as fit as I could possibly be," said the 32-year-old triple Lion as England's élite gathered for a tactical tutorial at Bisham Abbey yesterday. "The only thing I haven't got in the tank is some match fitness. and I hope to correct that very

By "soon", he meant this weekend. Provided all goes well in what is certain to be an ultraphysical double squad session with Bath today, Guscott will make himself available for the Allied Dunbar Premiership confrontation with Newcastle at Gateshead on Sunday. "I'm midway through my first week of contact work now and I've suffered no ill effects thus far," he said. "We'll know more once I've played, though, and I'd like to think Sunday is a possibility."



Guscott has not laced up his boots in anger since the final Lions Test in Johannesburg in early July, during which he suffered a broken left arm. Subsequently, he developed serious disc problems in his lower back and went under the knife in November. Many observers, not least a clear majority of the Bath first team squad, suspected he would call it a day, yet his appetite for the rigours of an unforgiving game seem undi-

"How could anyone with any ambition as a rugby player second Test we played against last month?" he asked, the old was great to watch, but it would have been even greater to have played. You can't always deliver 15-man rugby - the Lions produced some terrific stuff against the South African provincial teams but the Tests can play total rugby and match

Bath have so many problems the Test No 8 Tim Rodber, has boks at Twickenham in Novem-

New Zealand at Twickenham Newcastle fixture has not slipped their minds completely. competitive glint in his eyes. "It but word from the Recreation Ground suggests Guscott may be selected among the replacethat would virtually guarantee him a run at some stage. Certainly, Clive Woodward, the England coach and a fully were necessarily more rigid - yet signed-up member of the Gusthis England side has proved it cott fan club, plans to send a pair of eyes to Tyneside just in case. A second triumphant Lion.

not have been turned on by that on their plate at the moment not suffered anything like the in- ber had he not been concussed against Italy in Treviso on Satthat it is a minor miracle that the jury trauma that spiked Guscott's guns during the first half of the season, but in many ways All Blacks at Bristol. "I have to he has far more ground to make up. While England's midfield remains in a state of flux, the enforced revamp of the back row was one of the outstanding successes of the four-Test SANZA series in the autumn.

"My injuries have been frustrating but you have to take it on the chin and get on with life," said the Northampton captain, who might well have faced the Spring-

while playing for an England second-string against the midweek do two things now: firstly, I need to fit in with the new regime and, secondly. I must keep playing well at club level. I've played seven on the trot now so I'm back to full fitness, at least."

Simon Holmes, the London Scottish flanker who survived last Saturday's cup tie at Bath with both ears intact, heard some good news from the Scottish selectors yesterday. He will make his Test debut at 31

urday week after edging out the

equally venerable Ian Smith. Two of Newcastle's Lions contingent, Doddie Weir and Alan Tait, return after injury at lock and centre respectively, while Gary Armstrong gets the nod over Andy Nicol at scrumhalf. Other changes to the side who lost 68-10 to the Springboks last month sees Tony Stanger back on the right wing and George Graham, another Tyneside exile, at prop.

Scotland team, Digest,

### Jenkins ready to forsake the Valleys for Bath

Neil Jenkins has spent much of the last two seasons trying to knock Bath from their high-altitude perch as the self-appointed powerbrokers of British rugby, mixing it with them as captain of Pontypridd in three outstanding Heineken Cup matches. Yesterday, his educated right boot was on the other foot as he discussed a possible move to the Recreation

gave their most prized possession permission to talk after an approach from the six-times English champions and Jenkins, nicknamed "The Fruitbat" by his Lions colleagues in South Africa last summer, fairly flew across his beloved Welsh Valleys to chew the fat with Bath representatives. "It's a professional game and individuals have to

in Welsh history. "Maybe now is the time for a change."

A Pontypridd player since he turned 14, Jenkins earns a sixfigure salary from club and international contracts. However. his Sardis Road deal expires at the end of the season and Bath, handsomely financed by Andrew Brownsword, the greetings

Ponty officials reluctantly said the heaviest points-scorer goal-kicker to replace Jon moved to No 10 when Stuart Callard.

> Severn Bridge in the last couple of years, luring internasons, from Llanelli last summer.

Barnes retired in 1994, may Bath have repeatedly cast soon ask to be considered as a their net on the far side of the centre rather than a stand-off and his unsettled England A understudy, Richard Butland, is on tional loose forwards in Richard the transfer list. A determined Webster and Nathan Thomas bid to coax Gregor Townsend before signing Ieuan Evans, away from Northampton endone of Welsh rugby's favourite ed in failure, leaving Bath no obvious option but to look west

### The moment Jones knew he was paralysed

It is now almost five weeks since hand I realised they were my the former Wales captain Gwyn hands and then I knew it was a Jones suffered a serious neck in- serious injury." jury playing for Cardiff against Swansea. The damage to his spinal cord was such that the flanker will never play again. Jones spoke publicly about the injury for the first time yesterday in the Western Mail.

"I remember following cure the ball and ended up in a difficult position," he said. "I felt a push from both sides, somebody behind and somebody in front. To be honest I just remember feeling a crunch in

"I didn't immediately know how serious the situation was, although I was aware that something had happened. When the bodies started falling on top of me I just thought I was trapped underneath the ruck. I thought that was why I couldn't move.

"But then as the other players ran away I was left on my

own. I tried to get up but quickly realised that I couldn't move. When I looked down and ally work it out. Because I tapes to watch. Unfortunately,

Jones, a trainee doctor, realised the extent of his injury before most and is under no illusions about his chances of a

medicine. I understand what has happened to a certain extent. Robert Howley in to try to se- The physiotherapy is very demanding physically. Four weeks after the operation I have developed some movement in my arms and legs, even if it is not that co-ordinated. Obviously my long-term goal is to make a good enough recovery to get back to being a doctor. That was what I started out to be and that

is what I would like to be." Jones has been abled to keep his spirits up largely because of the support he has received throughout Welsh rugby.

"So many people have also taken their time to visit. The players at Cardiff have been magnificent in their support. They even bought me a new television and video recorder saw my arms there I couldn't re- and an endless supply of videocouldn't feel anything I wasn't the physiotherapists are worksure they were mine. However, ing me hard and don't give me once I saw the strapping on my enough time to watch them!"

SWIMMING

### China under threat of four-year ban

China faces the possibility of being banned from all international competition after yesterday's announcement that four of their swimmers had failed drug tests taken last week, prior to the World Championships here.

Fina, the sport's governing body, can ban a nation from competition for up to four years if four of their swimmers fail drug tests in a 12-month period.

The revelation overshadowed the anticipated statement from Fina that Yuan Yuan, the swimmer sent home to China after customs officers found human growth hormone in her suitcase, had been banned for four years. Her coach, Zhou Zhewen, was given a 15-year ban.

Every Chinese swimmer was tested on arrival in Australia, with members of the women's team, Wang Luna, Cai Huijue, Zhang Yì, and a male swimmer. Wang Wei, showing traces of triamterene, a diuretic which can be used to mask steroid use. The four have been suspended until the results of the 'B' test are known and will take no further

part in the championships. A Danish pharmaceutical group said yesterday it produced the human growth hormone found by the Customs officers. Novo Nordisk said it sold owned import company and that it was intended, as far as was known, for hospitals in China.

In the pool, Alexander Popov. the Russian who survived a knife attack in a Moscow street 15 months ago, retained his world 100m freestyle title, in the process beating the Australian double gold medallist,

Michael Klim, and breaking his own championship record. There were no medals for Britain, with James Hickman and Stephen Parry finishing fifth and sixth, respectively, in the 200m butterfly, but the women's 4x100m freestyle squad did

break the British record. Hickman, the world shortcourse champion, swam a powerful first half but slipped off the pace on the third length, dropping from third to sixth. The Stockport Metros swimmer fought back to beat the Floridabased Parry for fifth place but his time of 1min 58.76sec was 0.6sec outside his British record. The Ukraine's Denis Silantiev snatched gold in the final me-

tres from European champion, Franck Esposito of France. The women's freestyle quartet could not match the men's 4x200m bronze medal from the day before, but they did emulate the record breaking run. Led off "Being partially educated in by Sue Rolph, who left Britain third at the first change-over, and with a fine swim from Melanie Marshall, they sliced 0.22sec of the national record in clocking 3:45.30 to finished seventh behind the victorious US squad. - Ian Gordon, Perth

TODAY'S NUMBER

### 600,000

The number of pounds an anonymous punter will earn if Cardiff City win the FA Cup this year. The optimistic gambler, who did not have a Welsh accent, has laid out £2,000 with William Hill on the Welsh side, £1,000 each way at odds of 400-1. The largest stake on the Cup so far this season has been £2,500 on Coventry City, at 40-1.

#### card millionaire, are very much Yet they remain exposed at once more. decide what is best for them," in the market for a top-notch outside-half. Mike Catt, who Henderson rated as doubtful to face Scotland

Rob Henderson, the Wasps centre, is doubtful for Ireland's first Five Nations' Championship match against Scotland at Lansdowne Road next month following his recent groin op-

"I've spoken to him several times in the past five or six days and he has been updating me." Brian Ashton, the Ireland coach, said. "At this stage it looks like he won't be able to play again before the Scotland game, so he is almost certainly out of the side."

Ashton also cast doubt on McGuinness, after the scrumin training this week, while Nick Popplewell, is still suffering from a sore hamstring.

Philippe Saint-André, Gloucester's French international winger, is facing a further month on the sidelines with a thigh injury. The 29-year-old, recently omitted from France's pre-Five Nations training squad, has already been troubled by the injury for a month.

John Fidler, the Gloucester team manager, said: "He thought that this thing would be right by now, but it has not

Saint-André's injury will give the availability of Conor Brian Johnson an extended run in the first team, starting with half aggravated an ankle injury Sunday's Allied Dunbar Pre- over Bristol in the Tetley's Bit- tory through an injury-time miership One derby at Bristol. ter Cup on Tuesday night.

Moseley have signed the Western Samoa prop Afa Leau on a full-time contract until the end of the season. Leau, 35, has been capped 20 times by his country and has been playing for the New Zealand provincial side, Counties, alongside Jonah Lomu.

Leau arrived in Birmingham yesterday morning and will be eligible to play in Moseley's Allied Dunbar Premiership Two game at Rotherham on Sat-

Worcester's rugby director, Les Cusworth, has ordered his side to concentrate on the league after the Jewson League One club's surprise 14-12 victory

Premiership One leaders, Newcastle, by beating a Bristol side two divisions above them. But Cusworth, the former

England backs coach, said: This season we've said that winning promotion out of Jewson League One was our main aim. We have a vital game against Morley on Saturday and we must now focus on that. We still have a long way to go, but this is a big day for the club and for Worcester as a whole. We'll enjoy this moment, but we've got to look beyond this."

Cusworth's side secured vicpenalty from full-back Tim

Worcester earned a lucrative Smith. Bristol had been trailing fifth-round home tie against the until just before the final whistle, when Irish international stand-off Paul Burke landed his fourth penalty to give them a

narrow lead until Smith struck.

China face a tough debut in this year's Hong Kong Sevens after being drawn in the same section as Western Samoa and Tonga. Fiji, the holders, have been paired with Argentina, Papua New Guinea and Taiwan in Group C for the tournament, which runs from 27 to 29 March.

HONG KONG SEVENS (27-29 March) Pool A: South Africa, Spain, Neitherlands, Thailand, Pool B: France, Canada, Zimbelswe, Malaysia, Pool C: FJ, Argentina, Papus New Guthea, Talwan, Pool D: Westlem Samoa, Tonga, Morocco, China, Pool E: New Zeeland, South Korea, United States, Singapora, Pool F: Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Sri Lanka.

AROUNE

**CRICKET** 

### Gough on track for Test return

Fingland pace bowler Darren his team in the forthcoming se-Sough says he is on target to regain fitness in time for England's third Test in the West Indies next month.

Gough, who had to pull out of the Caribbean tour because of a persistent hamstring injury. is hoping to join up with England as soon as he can.

"The specialists have isolated the problem area and have adjusted my treatment slightly, and the hope is that I will complete my recovery in about six weeks." Gough said. "That would allow me to join up with the squad more or less as planned."

China under

four-year ban

threat of

The timetable he is setting will leave Gough with a race to be match fit for the third Test in Guyana on 27 February. He had Piped to make the second Test a fortnight earlier.

Mike Atherton, the England captain, has already said he hopes Gough can join the tour some time next month, but the Yorkshireman is anxious not to put pressure on himself with strict deadlines.

specific targets because if I The selectors also chose to omit don't make them it will be a letdown," he said.

Courtney Walsh, sacked earcaptain, has confirmed he will ara, if he is selected to play for into a frenzy," he said.

"I am looking forward to the first Test, but I also hope the controversy which has developed over the captaincy will end now," Walsh said. My aim is to play Test cricket whether I'm captain or not."

The controversy arose after the West Indies Cricket Board appointed Lara captain for the series against England, which starts on 29 January in Jamaica. In response, Walsh told reporters he was not sure he could play under Lara.

Shane Warne gave an impressive display as Australia's stand-in captain yesterday in leading an inexperienced oneday team to a 131-run victory over New Zealand in Sydney.

Warne went into the match without the only four current players who started this season with more than 100 international limited-overs appearances for Australia. The usual one-day captain, Steve Waugh, was out with a hip injury, while his broth-"I don't want to set myself er, Mark, was suffering with flu. the Test captain, Mark Taylor, and wicketkeeper Ian Healy.

Warne, who recently took lier this month as West Indies 300 Test wickets, was typically relaxed about his captaincy sucplay under his successor. Brian cess. "I whipped the boys up

### Stern test faces England A

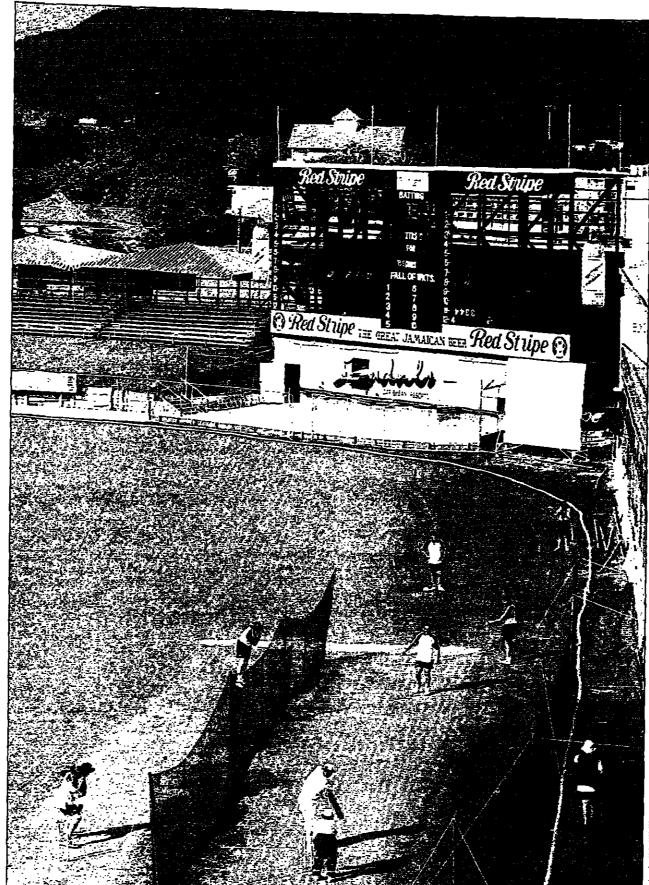
Sri Lanka yesterday indicated over the next seven weeks, an their determination to give England As young squad a stern Test of their ability in the forthcoming three-match Test series.

The England tour manager, Graham Gooch, and their coach, Mike Gatting, expected to face a selection of Sri Lanka's up-and-coming youngsters ing on 30 January.

ideal opportunity to gauge the squad's talent against opponents of a similar age group.

But Sri Lanka have chosen the highly rated Marvan Atapattu, a proven opener and Test level, to lead their A side in the first Test at Kurenegala, start-

والمراجع والمراجع والمتأثر بمراجع وأيتانا



England's Robert Croft (right) bowls in front of John Embury and Phil Tufnell at Sabina Park, Kingston, yesterday in preparation for the first Test against West Indies, beginning in two weeks' time Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

**FOOTBALL** 

#### European parliament increases pressure on Uefa to restore Coca-Cola Cup-winners' place

cused of "an abuse of a contract. dominant position" contrary to European Union rules in banning England's Coca-Cola Cup winners from the Uefa Cup.

European MPs in Strasbourg passed a resolution urging Uefa to drop the ban and that increases pressure on the Brussels Commission to intervene on the Football League's behalf.

Patrick Blondeau has left Sheffield Wednesday and re-

erning body, was vesterday ac-deaux on a three and a half year

Wednesday's manager. Ron Atkinson, said after the £1.2m deal was completed that the move to Sheffield had simply not about, it's better to cut your losses and start again." he said.

Blondeau, who made only a handful of appearances for Monaco won the French title tain, Kakhaber Tskhadadze, Liv- Bromwich,

borough for £1.8m. He hopes to break back into the national squad for the World Cup finals.

Queen's Park Rangers have signed Antti Heinola, a 24- year-old defender, plays for Alaworked out. "Rather than hang year-old Finnish international right-back from the Dutch club Heracles for £100,000 on a position as manager of Stoke

Wednesday - in part because of beaten Liverpool in the chase for thrashing by Birmingham and injuries, was a regular when the Georgia international cap- an FA Cup exit at West the reasons why he was unwill-

If a European football's gov-turned to France, joining Bor-last season and won a cap for erpool were ready to offer him France before moving to Hills- a trial but City's chairman. Francis Lee, wants him to become the third Georgian at Maine Road. joining Georgi Kinkladze and Murtaz Shelia, Tskhadadze, a 29-

> nia Vladikavkaz. Chic Bates is considering his three and a half year contract. City after an embarrassing run Manchester City seem to have our results, ending in the 7-0

land international, wants to leave Bury on a free transfer after a row with the First Division club. where he has been having a good season.

Andreas Thom has ended his two and a half year spell with Celtic by signing an 18-month contract with Hertha Berlin. The 32-year-old striker cited difterences with Celtie's Dutch coach. Wim Jansen, as one of ing to stay until the end of the

have expired. is expected to leave Rugby Park staff. and join Sporting Gijon. The popular 30-year-old has inallowing him to leave and was

with the Spanish club. by Lekovic's desire to leave.

### Rusedski and Sampras winded

Unexpected defeats in windy conditions for Pete Sampras and Greg Rusedski, the leading Australian Open seeds, in Melbourne yesterday gave the players plenty to think about for next week's Grand Slam event. In the swirling winds affect-

ing the Kooyong Classic, Rused-ski, the British No 1, lost 7-5, 6-4 to the Australian Mark Philippoussis, while Sampras fell to Gustavo Kuerten, the French Open champion, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. The beaten pair will now play each other today, the second day al warm-up event for the Open.

Rusedski, seeded fifth for the Open, was relaxed about his defeat to Philippoussis, the 15th seed, and said: "It was ideal practice for the Australian Open. The courts are the same and the balls are virtually the same. It was difficult for both of us to serve at pace in the windy conditions and I am not at all disappointed."

Sampras, the first seed, was also not too upset and said: "It was not meant for playing tennis out there, it was more for flying a kite. It was impossible to play, the wind was so strong."

Andre Agassi had earlier gained an impressive 6-4, 6-0 win over the Austrian Thomas Muster, while the left-handed Croat Goran Ivanisevic beat the Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev 7-6, 6-3, who had stepped into the tournament after Michael Chang, the defending champion, had withdrawn with a strained stomach muscle.

The tournament is being played in two groups of four with the top player from each group going into Saturday's final.

At the Sydney International, Anna Kournikova lost to Lindsay Davenport, 6-2, 6-7, 6-3, after five delays for rain. "It's the first match I ever played sevof the exhibition tournament en and a half hours," Kournikothat has become the tradition- va said. "She definitely has more experience with matches like this. I think I got tired waiting around so long."

Serena Williams reached the quarter-finals when Sandrine Testud retired because of tendinitis in her left knee while trailing 7-6, 3-0. Williams said that if Testud was hurt, she did a good job of disguising it. "She seemed to be moving fast, jumping high, running swift. All of a sudden she came over and shook my hand."

In the men's draw, another talented player, the 16-yearold Australian, Lleyton Hewett, who beat the world No 4, Jason Stoltenberg, on Tuesday after becoming the lowest-ranked player to win an ATP Tour event on Sunday, lost 5-7, 6-3, 7-5 to his compatriot, Michael Tebhutt.

RUGBY LEAGUE

#### Farrell may need operation for troublesome ankle

The Great Britain captain, on striking for the ball in the Andy Farrell, could need an ankle operation before the start of the season.

Farrell is to see a specialist tomorrow. "It has been bothering me for about three months," said the Wigan loose forward. "It has been really sore after training and if I'm going to need an operation this is

the best time to have it done." will not only be fit for the start nical director, Joe Lydon. of the Super League season in April, but also for his club's entry into the Silk Cut Challenge Cup next month.

The former Widnes player Andy Gray, the former Eng-season when his contract would. John Myler is in line to become Wigan's Academy coach, nock's Yugoslavian goalkeeper who has joined St Helens'

> There are to be no rule a free transfer. changes for the 1998 season, voked a clause in his contract i even though that could mean differences in the way the game due to discuss personal terms is played in the northern and southern hemispheres. Aus-Kilmarnock, who confirmed | tralia is set to adopt a number they had received a written of- of the changes introduced by for from Gijon, were surprised Super League, including the use of the video referee and a ban

rucks. But compromise talks between Super League and the Australian Rugby League are unlikely to adopt the rule under which the scoring side then kicks off.

In Britain, however, that controversial rule will remain in place. "It's important for coaches, players and supporters that we maintain stability on the Farrell is confident that he field, said the League's tech-

"There has been a need for change in Australia because of the coming together of the two leagues, but here in the UK we don't want to confuse people with more rule changes."

Featherstone have given Drago Lekovic, Kilmar- replacing Nigel Ashley-Jones, their former Great Britain scrum-half Deryck Fox, who is in his second spell with the club.

Oldham last night signed Graham Shaw, a second row released by Bradford, Shaw, son of the former Oldham Athletic footballer, David Shaw, has turned down a full-time contract with Huddersfield in order to join the newly formed club.

Dave Hadfield

### SPORTING DIGEST

FLGURE SKATING

### Russian replacements take the honours

Skating Championships in Milan yesterday, as Alexei Yagudin led a sweep of the first three places in the men's short pro-

With the top Russian men out mostly 5.8s and 5.9s out of six injured, their replacements for a technically superb but has been fraught with physical shone at the European Figure relatively staid performance to problems, including a broken Russian gypsy music. Alexander Abt was second, followed by Yevgeny Plushenko. Philippe Candeloro, the 1994 Olympic bronze medallist, was a disap-Skating last, Yagudin earned pointment, coming ninth.

leg and knee surgery. But he skated like a veteran vesterday. hitting all four of his jumps cleanly and closing with a dramatic slide along the side of the rink on one knee.

Boxing

### SNOW REPORT

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NBA: San Antonio 97 Seaton 68, New Yerse, 81 Characte 69, Atlanta 61 New York 69, Philanel-phia 107 Kanoduser 89, Chicago Kirl Seattle 91 Houston 100 DaBas 87, Orlandor 98 Demoer 44 Clevellend 100 Propers, 84, Marin 16 Portland

CIS INSURANCE WELSH MASTERS (Lianetii): First round: L Gilen (Eng. or M Anste, (Wal) 7-2 1-7 7-5 P Weale (Wal) of M McManon (Aus) 7-2 6-7 7-4

Germany-based Croatian Branco Sobot has been named as Joe Calza-ghes new opponent for the Welsh-mans first defence of his World Bowing Organisation world super-middleweight title next week. Calzaghe, who won the belt with a points victory over Chris Eubank in Sheffield last October, had been due to face American Tarick Salmac But Salmaci has fallen out with his manager and Sobot has been drafted in to face Calcaghe in Cardiff on 29 January, Sobot who was Caron on 29 January, South who was 26 on Monday, has lost only one of his 15 fights - a spir points decision against Hassine Chenti for the Euro-pean middleweight fitte

Cricket Stuart Anderson, the Kent secretary, is to leave the post at the end of the 1998 season. The former brigadien is retiring after eight years in the job SECOND TEST (Colombo, First day)

Combability Work 1955

ZMBABWE - First Innings
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G W Flower t Pushpakumara
41
M Goodwin b Anurasin
G Z Whittigit vin out
11
Flower c and b Anurasin
6 R Nampbel c Naturasin
7 R Strang c Pushpakumara b Vass
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Bowling: Vaas 12-1-35-2. Pushpakumara 12-2-43-1. De Séva 7-1-33-0. Murakharan 32-10-72-2. Anurasin 27-7-65-2. SRI LANKA: "A Ranatungo, ST Jayasunya. M S Alagrahu P S Mahanama. P A de Sala H P Tikskatane 1R S Kabuwitharane. C P U J C Vaas K R P Unshpakumara. M Murahiraran S D Anurasin.

INDEPENDENCE CUP FINAL (Dhaka)

(Best of three match series): Palostan 212 to: 9 45 overs) India 213 for 2 (37) overs) & C Ganguly 68. S R Tendukar 95. India won by eight wickets. Football NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Post-poned fixtures: Tue 20 Jan: Wigan v Wal-sal Set 24 Jan: Walsal v Gilingham. Tue 27 Jan Wigan v Soumemouth (playing Tue 10 Feb) Wed 28 Jan: Middlesbrough v fran-mers Tue 17 Feb: Sheffield Uto v Mid-desstrough.

Auto Windscreens Shield Re-arranged fetures: Tue 20 Jan: Wigan v Rythernam Itom 13 Jan; Tue 27 Jan: Burn-ley , Notis Courty from 13 Jan;

#### FOOTBALL RESULTS

round: Bournemouth & Muddersheld : Chellenham 1 Reading 1 (repthy fuestby 20 January) Herebood 2 Tranmere 3, Peter porough 0 Wakail 2, West Bromwich 3 Stoke 1 Third-round replays: Bur, 1 Spetheld Unit 2 (pswich 1 Bristol Rovers & Modlesbrough: 2 Queens Park Rangers 0, Wheyham 2 Wim herbook and Markey 10 Processing 1 and 10 Processing 1 Performance 1 TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Cup third 2 Queens Park Rangers 0. Wrexham 2 Wm Diedon 3 Auto Windscreens Shield North-2 Oueris Park Rangers U. Western School Northern second round: Macdesheld O Preston 1 Southern second round: Fulham 3 Avonner 1 Linna 2 Brentford 1 Northern 5 Torquey 1 Bell's Scottish Leggie Second Division: Clyse 0 Sharroer 1 FA Limbro Trophy First-round replays: Workson 2 Eerom 4 Tetror 3 Guiseley 2. Chorley 0 Astron tha 2 Stolagh 2 Welking 1 Hastings 0 Bam 1 Cresham 0 Stevenage 3 Yearing 1 Yeowill 0 Ryman League Vandanel Associate Members Trophy third round: Aretey 1 East Triumol 5 Bah ing 0 Beoford Town 3 Lesti Edginare 1 Wealing 1 Stolagh 2 Stolagh 2 Welking 1 Martin 3 Horsham 2 Of Martens League Midland Division: Horsham 2 Or Martens League Midland Division: Horsham 2 Cr Martens League Midland Division: Horsham 2 Cr Martens League

1 League Cup second round: Clevedon 4 Fores: Green Rovers 1 Third round: Fisher Athletic 0 Cambridge City 0 (abendoned 35 min "Soodlight failure) North West Counties League First Division: Nartwoch 1 Krisgicke 6 Jewson Wessex League: Toton 0 Andover 2 United Sussex County League First Division: Burgess Hill 4 Halstein 3 Winstoniead Kerd League First Division: Deal 2 Challam 3 Thamesmed 1 Whitesable 2 Jewson Eastern League Premer Division: Sufficient Valleties 1 League of Wales Gilbert Cup quarter-finals first leg: Barry Town 1 Inter Candi 2 Smirmoff Irish League First Division: Lumavady 2 Camb Rangers Cable Tel Cardell 2 Smirmoff Irish League First Division: Limavady 4 Carnol Rangers (Press & Journal Highland League: Fort Wittern 3 (Lachnacuddn 4 Avon Insurance Combination First Division: Crystal Palexie (Champan 1 Malwall 1 Norwich 3, Orlord Urd 2 Leich 1 The Times FA Youth Cup Turd round: Porsmouth 2 Gaingham 0. Spanish Cup Fourth round first leg: Qave 1 Real Madrid 0 French League Cup First round. Social 1 Toulouse 2.

Eliphas Shivute will swap life in the Scottish Premier Division for the African Nations Cup finals next month. Motherwell's talented winger is one of three foreign-based players in the squad named today by outsiders Namibia.

Atletico Madrid has been ordered to pay Italian club Juvenitus outstanding fees on the transfer of Christian Vien by 12 February or tace possible bans, world governing body Fifa said yesice hockey

NHL: Washington 4 Ottawa 0. Ice skating

ICE SKATING EUROPEAN FIGURE SKATING CHAM-PIONSHIPS (Milan): Men's standings effer the short programme: 1 A Yagudin (Rus) 0365, 2 A Abt (Rus) 10,3 E Pushenko (Rus) 15, elso 7 S Cousns (GB) 35. Motor racing

The International Automobile Federa-tion (FIA), motor sport's governing body, has delayed a decision on cancelling the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix until 15 February. The race is under threat because of a Belgian law barning tobacco advertising. Only two weeks ago FIA had extended their deadline to mid-lanuary for the au-thorities to solve the problem. thorities to solve the problem. The New Zealander Craig Baird will fill the final remaining seat - in a Mondeo - in Fords British Touring Car Cham-pionship challenge this season, putting an end to speculation that Nigel Manset was to join the team.

Pools news ZETTERS DIVIDENDS for matches played on Saturday, January 10, 21 points 18352-30. 20pts 158.01. 19pts 1300, 18pts 1035 Four aways 114 Eight homes 1080, four draws 548-40 Lucky numbers: 33-5-28, 31-8.

28-9-31-6
VERNONS Treble chance: 21 points
CT/9,909 20pts £274.25 19pts £32.15 Premier 10 £236
LITILEWOODS: Treble chance: 21pts
C750.509, 20 £79840, 19 £4405, 18 £610
Four draws £9680. Nine homee £440, Five
aways £76.15.

Rugby League The World Nines, scheduled for Australia or New Zealand next month, have been scrapped because there is not enough time to organise them. Mau-nice Lindsay, the new Super League managing director who still holds the position of international Board charmen, said: Several countries have been pressing me for an urgent dedision as we are getting close to the

#### Rugby Union France are to reduce their elite cham-

pionstrip from 20 to 16 clubs next sea-son. The decision was reached after a day-long meeting between French Rugby Federation president Bemard a day-long meeting between Hericin Rugby Federation president Bemard Lapasset and Eite Rugby National Commission president Seraphin Berthier. The move, demanded by the International players and national coaching set-up, is a threat to European champions Brive, who are just one place above the relegation zone. SCOTLAND (villally in Trevise on Saturday 24 January): Fi Shepherd (Meiros & Caledoris): T Stanger (Harich, & Scottish Borders), A Tath Newcastle Falcone), C Chalmer (Larcester): G Stanger (Harich, & Scottish Borders), A Tath Newcastle Falcone), C Graham (Newcastle Falcone): G Graham (Newcastle Falcone): S Murray (Beddord): R Wathwright (Dunder HSFP & Caledoria, capit, A Rendough (Kebo & Soottish Borders), S Holmes (London Scottish), Replacements: D Stark (Blasgow Hawle and Gasgow). A Nicol (Bath), P Wathon (Newcastle Falcone). D Hillton (Bath), G Scott (Dunder HSFP & Caledonia).

core, D Hilton (Bath), G Scott (Dundler HSPP & Caledona).

Swirmming

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS MEN: 100 mebres freestyle: Heat 10: 1 M Kim (Aus) 4933ec; 2 G Burges (Bra) 4870; 3 Scott flucker (US) 4966; 8 M Sievers (GB) 5178 Heat 11: 1 A Popov (Rus) 4957; 2 N Water (US) 5035; 3 M Hernandez (Cube) 5037; 5 NShadi-el (GB) 5062; Final: 1 Popov 4860; 2 NSm 4920; 3 L Frolander (Swe) 4953; 200m butterfly Heat 5: 1 J Hickman (CB) 1:593; 25 Parry (GB) 1:5837 Pinal: 1 D Sylaniyev (Us) 1:566; 2 Fisaposto (P) 1:557; 3 T Malchow (US) 1:5726; 5 Hickman 1:5876; 8 Parry (GB) 1:5837; Water Polo second round: Caracta best South Africe 2-7; Iran best (New Zealand 6-5; Italy beat (Kazaldistan 13-3; Hungary best Craits 9-6; Yupostavia beat Graece 8-6

WOMEN: Women's 400m freestyle: Heat 3: 1 C Gearts (Neth) 4:156; 2 Fas Shu Min (Te) 4:1688; 3 N Bounton (Las) 4:1676; 4 M Homer (GB) 4:1706; 5 N Chemazova (Rus) 4:740; 6 J Craig (GB) 4:1554 A00m freestyle: Heat 1: 1 Chen Yan (Chra) 4:0672; 2 B Bennett (US) 4:0707; 3 D Hasse (Gen 4:0862; 100m beckstroke: Heat 5: 7 A Buschschulle (Gen 1:028; 2 M Smith (Aus) 1:1028; 3 He Chang (Chra) 1:0285; 4 N Smith (Aus) 1:1036; 5 K Senton (GB) 1:0459; 100m backstroker Bras: 1 L Maurer (US) 1:018; 2 Ms Nalearminia; 1 L Maurer (US) 1:018; 2 Ms

Tennis

Tennis
SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT
Men's singles second round. A Costa (Sp)
bit in Custaisson (Swe) 36-6-4-63; fill Auchera
(Sovah) bit in Kiefer (Sen 5-2 ret. In Technical
(Aus) bit I Hewrit (Aus) 57-6-37-5; P Raher
(Aus) bit A Bernsstegu (Sp) 6-3-6-4 Women's
steglies second round: N Zvereva (Belat bit
A Costar (Sal 57-637-5; A Surguare Lapan)
bit C Marmiez (Sp) 7-6-6-3 SWilliams (US) bit
S Testud (Fr) 7-6-3-0 met L Davenpor (US) bit
A Kourribova (Rus) 6-2-7-6-6-3
KOOYONG CLASSIC TOURNAMENT KOOYONG CLASSIC TOURNAMENT Group One: G Nuerten (Bra) bi P Sampras (US) 3-6-3-6-4: M Prilippoussis (Aus) bi G Rusedeki (GS) 7-5, 6-4 Group 2: 4 Agassi (US) bi T Muster (Aut) 6-4 6-0. G Ivanisevic (Croa) bi A Medvetiev (Un) 7-6-6-3

TASMANIAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL Hobert, Aust: Singles second round: D van Roost (Bel) br L. Courtos: (Bal) 6-0, 6-4, P Schnyder (Swil) br A Gerst (CZ Rep) 6-2 6-3: H Nagyona (Slovak) br R Grande (lit 6-3-3-6-0; B Scherl (Aut) br J Nejedly (Can) 6-0, 6-C Li Fang (Ch) br J Haland-Decugs (Fr) 3-6-6-2 6-1.

Weightlifting

Weight intring
Four Turkish walghilfters, including a world record-holder, face bans after testing positive for performance-enhancing drups at the recent world championships in Thalland. The International Weightlifting Federation confirmed yesterday that four Turkish lifters, three women and one man teststeroid metandienone at last months

#### **FIXTURES**

Football

HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Pro-mier Division: Dundalk v Derry City (745). UNLIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision: Lengney Sports v Whiteheark (730). AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Dusens Park Rangers v Wimbledon 200

ice hockey EXPRESS CUP: Basingstoke Bison v Sheffold Steelers (730); Cardill Devils v Manchester

Other sports

600.000

### British swimmers go in breathless pursuit of the world in Australia



Stephen Parry powers his way to the final of the men's 200m butterfly at the World Swimming Championships in Perth, Western Australia, yesterday. The European bronze medallist, who comes from Liverpool but is based in China under threat of four-year ban, page 30; Photograph: Chris Cole/Empics Florida, eventually finished sixth in the final, one place behind his fellow Briton, James Hickman. The Ukrainian Denis Silantiev took the gold

### United on the brink of £50m shirt deal

Manchester United are on the in British football. The current been talking, but United insidcompany, Ford.

United's strip is up for grabs next season and they are about to announce a contract for the year, £60m, deal with Umbro to next five years with Ford after months of talks with leading companies. The agreement - to replace current long-term part-

new deal is close to a 50 per cent over the finishing line. increase at £10m per season. This is in addition to the sixwear their shirts.

Ford have driven into pole position after hard bargaining with United's money men. The vealed by the end of the month. name on the best known kit associated with the club. The deal will be the biggest around. Coca-Cola have also Ford are already one of the

Sharp contract was worth ers claimed last night that Ford sponsorship deal with the car around £7m in its last year - the were just about to beat them

United originally lined up Ford among other huge concerns for a new idea of shared shirt sponsorship, making it less expensive and more appealing to the business community. However the car firm ners Sharp - is close to being American company with big were not willing to pump in cash finalised and should be re- British connections want their unless they were the main name

sponsors of the prestigious Champions' League, but teaming up with United is a massive commercial coup. They are already heavily involved with Sky Television's coverage of football and once tried to outbid Carling for the rights to have their

name on the Premiership. United's transfer target Marcelo Salas is set to sign for Lazio this week for £13m. The Chilean striker will earn £2m

Lazio came up with the fee that his club, River Plate, wanted.

The former United striker, Dion Dublin, has been the subject of "two substantial offers". according to his current club. Coventry City.

The Sky Blues chairman, Bryan Richardson, declined to name the interested clubs - but one of them is believed to be Middlesbrough. The First Division club have been alerted Leicester have also been linked per season over four years to about the availability of Dublin with the player. play in Italy's Scrie A after since he turned down a £3m

over three and a half years. Their manager, Bryan Robson, has money to spend after offloading Emerson to Tenerife for £4.2m earlier this week.

"We have had considerable interest in Dublin from several clubs," Richardson said. "We have received two bids, which we will be considering shortly." Wimbledon, Crystal Palace and

### Marr defends actions of Scotland's 'gang of four'

ecutive, vesterday defended the decision of four leading Scottish First Division clubs to hold secret discussions with the Premier Division sides in an attempt to solve the breakaway row.

The four clubs - Raith Rovers, Dundee, St Mirren and Airdrie - have been called "loose cannons" by other First Division chairmen after Marr revealed the attempts of the group to persuade the Premier Division clubs not to push ahead with plans for an exclusive 10-team league for next season.

Peter Marr, the Dundee chief ex-relegation continues between the two leagues, with an expansion of the top league to at least Cup ticks bein

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12 clubs from the year 2000. "We have guarantees from the Premier League that they won't be taking the action they have been talking about in cosing up the league," Marr said. He also added that it was "probable" that the present one-up, one-down promotion and reingation would be retained, with the play-offs being scrapped.

Marr urged his fellow lower league clubs to support the new proposals when a vote is Marr insisted guarantees are in place to ensure promotion and agement Committee meeting.

### French police to arrest ticket touts at World Cup

French police will arrest anyone engaged in large-scale touting of tickets outside stadiums during the World Cup, the tournament organisers said yesterday.

The head of World Cup security, Dominique Spinosi, said the resale of tickets for a profit was against the law in France. Anyone identified by police arrested and prosecuted.

English, Scottish and French football and security officials on arrangements for curbing hooli- lem is the same for French ganism during France '98. Both fans," Spinosi said. sides denied that the small number of tickets allocated directly to foreign fans - potentially less than 10 per cent of the

She was speaking after a curity headache during the June one-day conference between tournament. "Unfortunately, most of the stadiums are quite small in France. But the prob-

The Football Association's security officer, Sir Brian Haves. confirmed, however, that Engtrafficking in tickets would be seats per game per country - questing that allocations for would be the biggest, single se- the three first-phase games -

against Romania, Tunisia and Colombia - should be increased in England's favour. England will receive less than 4,000 tickets for the game against Colombia on 26 June in Lens thousands of miles from Colombia, but only 50 miles

from the Channel. Georges Querry, Inspector General of the French police. said that emergency judicial

procedures would be used does not allow people to conduct against trouble-makers from Britain and elsewhere. They could be sent before judges, sitting up to 24 hours a day, and, if convicted, jailed or deported.

However, the Football Supporters' Association is worried that English fans could become victims of summary justice.

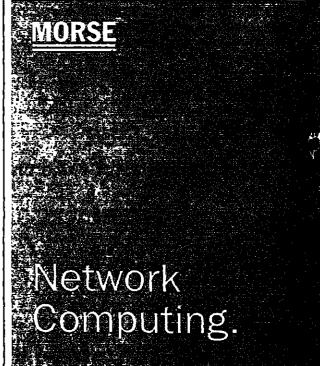
"This concerns us greatly. Starting court cases so quickly

a proper defence," Shiela Spiers, the vice-chairman of the FSA, said. "They should have the time to speak to British representatives and lawyers first.

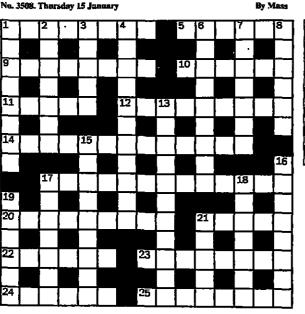
"We have seen far too many examples in the past of English fans being wrongly accused and we don't want supporters to be the victims of summary justice."

- John Lichfield, Paris

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#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- ACROSS 1 Rank ivy choking short bough's vitality (8) 5 Inferior meat Cliff's put
- in steamer? (6) 9 Creatures keep an eye on wheeling hawk (8) 10 Its contents will get Jack 24 Confess about price leap quite drunk? (6)
- 11 Understand yen for game (5) 12 All marks come up for
- review (9) 14 Unmentionable habits,
- generally speaking (13) 17 Dodgy Liberal dangles precariously and be-20 Gallant or snappy about 4 He might well fall to uncouth rival? (9)
- border (5) 22 Line confined to shipman in the main? (6)
- 23 Top cover accordingly takes King at end of card game (8)
- 25 Divers in seas trod about (8) DOWN Stalwart and strict,
- against usurping king (8) 18 Situation's primitive, Ring - a way to identify a bird (7) A cry's raised in the pas- 21 Reserve, endless re-
- 6 Analysing lines in paint-
  - This could yield one good fish (7) Fallen star's over the
  - horizon (6) 13 Part of course presenting a hairy aspect (6,5) 15 A shining example? (9) 16 A body-builder's heavenly body (8)
  - 17 Rambling sort, the German, full of crack (7) overlooking a lake (7) 19 Composes masses (6) serve, is socially not on

### RUGBY UNION

### Ubogu takes legal advice as Woodward attacks Exiles

Victor Ubogu, the Bath prop wrongly cited by London Scottish following last Saturday's gruesome attack on Simon Fenn, was exploring avenues of legal redress while Clive Woodward, the England coach, gave the Exiles both barrels for their "poor handling" of the episode. Chris Hewett weighs up another busy day on the ear-biting

"My name is my passport," said a thoroughly cheesed-off Victor Ubogu yesterday. Thanks to the decision of London Scottish to link him with the now notorious bite on Simon Fenn's left ear during last weekend's cup match at the Recreation Ground, the England prop now feels his passport mass citing looked likely to would be more legitimate if it had the name "Ronnie Biggs" stamped all over it.

Ubogu, a scrupulously lawabiding tight-head prop who boasts an untarnished disciplinary record, was taking legal ad- have cited the Bath coach, who vice after being cited by the Exiles as part of Bath's front row. The video clearly shows that there is absolutely no way I could have been involved, so why I was cited in the first place baffles me," he fumed. "The citing was totally unjustified.

"In the 20 years I have been playing rugby I have never been sent off. It's not in my character to be involved in the type of weekend; I happen to think it has tarnished the game's image and I would never support such an act of foul play. I was horrified when London Scottish cited me and I feel it was defamatory to my character. Apart from anything else, I

have a business to run." Even though the Exiles have now accepted Ubogu's innocence - his fellow prop, Kevin Yates, was singled out by Bath for suspension pending further investigations and a disciplinary hearing - the row over the rumble on, "It was very poorly handled," agreed Clive Wood- from Don Foster, the city's Libward, the England coach. "Vic-

was sitting in the stand."

Woodward also spoke up on behalf of Yates, who had been selected for yesterday's England session at Bisham Abbey but diplomatically withdrew on Tuesday night. "No player or coach wants to be associated with anyone who is into ear-biting and what happened to Fenn was appalling, but Kevin has not been proved guilty of anything. incident that took place at the He'll be a member of this squad until that changes.

"He's a good guy, a friend in a way, and I wouldn't have thought he had it in him to go around biting people. He phoned me on Tuesday and said: 'I have to say to you that I didn't do it.' When a guy you know well insists on his innocence, it's a bit tough to tell him he's history."

Yesterday, Yates was referring all inquiries to his Londonbased solicitor, Eddie Parladorio. It was left to Tony Swift, the Bath chief executive, to react to criticism of the club's handling of the affair, notably eral Democrat MP. "There is no tor was the entire width of the cover-up," Swift said. "I take it front row away from the injured as a personal insult that anyone player. They might just as well should suggest such a thing."

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